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PART XXXVIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

June 1879.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XXXVIII.

No. 1.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 94.) *Paris, May 31, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs expresses great satisfaction with your despatch No. 694 about Greece.

He has telegraphed to French Representatives at Constantinople and Athens to urge speedy appointment of Turkish and Greek Representatives.

He desires to ask your Lordship privately and confidentially whether it would not be possible for France and England to come to an understanding beforehand about Janina.

No. 2.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 463.) *Therapia, May 31, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Ambassador informs me that General Zelenoy has been appointed to replace General Stebnitzky on Asiatic Frontier Commission.

No. 3.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 201.) *Philippopolis, June 1, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE dangers I anticipated of the Commission remaining here are already being realized. To-day I made the proposals of which I had given notice, as instructed in your despatch No. 227. These were accepted by Prince Tzerotelew, reserving that the points on which advice was to be given should be defined. On this M. Ring proposed the following resolution:—"The European Commission has, as a mission, to superintend ("surveiller") the introduction of the Organic Statute. On all questions relating to it the Governor-General is held to ask its preliminary advice. This advice, settled by a majority of votes, is obligatory on the Governor-General. As to choice of administrative staff, it must be made on the personal responsibility of the Governor-General."

He declared his instructions to be identical with those of Russia [? group wrong].

Although he did not press his motion to a vote, he declared he would not attend any sitting to give advice until this question was settled.

If his motion is adopted, every act of Governor will have to be previously sanctioned by four out of the Commission, thus relieving the Governor of all responsibility.

He was supported by Tzeretelew.

The Commission adjourned, some wishing to ask for instructions.

If M. Ring's proposal is carried out, the whole of the Government, except patronage, will be in the hands of the majority of the Commission, which will generally be against us.

I maintained that advice should be given only when asked, and should not be obligatory.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 4.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 202. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 1, 1879.*

THE Exarch is very anxious to keep Commission here. It is evident that the Bulgarians and Russians wish it to be understood that Aleko Pasha is under the orders, not of the Sultan, but of Europe, and that thus the province is emancipated from the Porte. The result will be that when occupation ends a clamour will be raised, under threat of disorders, for continuation of Commission permanently.

M. Ring, worked on by the Exarch, and furious at the breakdown of Coutouly incident, has lent himself to the combination.

No. 5.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 1, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 201, M. Ring's words were not "surveiller," but "veiller à."

No. 6.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 31, 1879.*

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he has been informed by his Government that Her Majesty's Government accept proposals contained in French Circular of the 19th May, and he is instructed to invite, in conjunction with other Representatives of Great Powers at Athens, the Greek Government to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople to continue negotiations relative to rectification of Greek frontier.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 7.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May 31, 1879.*

ITALIAN Minister has been instructed to express to the Greek Government, with reference to formation of camp near frontier of Epirus, the hope of Italian Government that no steps will be taken which might interfere with the peaceful solution of frontier question.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 8.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 1, 1879.*

PRINCE of Bulgaria was given no special rank as such, because he has not yet received the investiture of the Sultan.

But he was received with honours; a dinner was given to him by the Emperor, and an Aide-de-camp was attached to his person. As far as I know the same was done for him at Vienna.

His Aide-de-camp is called M. Riedesel.

The Prince himself told me that he preferred to be received quite privately, and would like his brother to be allowed to stay with him whilst he is in England.

No. 9.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 1, 1879.*

SERVIAN Government have addressed an identic note to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers, pleading that late deplorable events on their south-east frontier prove it to be indefensible. They accordingly appeal to Powers to instruct their Commissioners to revise frontier near Vranja defined last year, and to grant them strong defensive positions along rest of boundary towards Turkey which still remains to be traced.

I have verbally expressed to Minister for Foreign Affairs my opinion that Her Majesty's Government will not entertain any demands involving the least deviation from limits assigned to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 10.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May 19, 1870.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of my despatch, and its four inclosures, to Sir Henry Layard relative to the conduct of Abdullah Pasha in affording protection to British interests in the districts of Caraferia and Catterina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, May 19, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, relative to the outrages committed by brigands at Messrs. Hanson and Co.'s chrome mines, in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency the translation of a letter from Abdullah Pasha, the Commander of the troops in those districts, in reply to the representations I made to him on the subject.

I also inclose copy of a letter, and its inclosure, from Messrs. Hanson's agent, stating that, through the valuable assistance he has received from Abdullah, he was enabled to resume mining operations, and requesting me to bring the Pasha's conduct under the notice of your Excellency.

Abdullah Pasha has also acted with equal zeal and attention in a case affecting the interests of Messrs. Abbott and Sons, British subjects, established at Salonica.

I inclose copy of Messrs. Abbott's letter on the subject.

The troops on this side of Mount Olympus, and in the vicinity of Catterina, have been more fortunate of late in their expeditions against the brigands. They have

succeeded in capturing some of these desperate characters, the notorious Chief Tchellio among the number, the same who committed the outrages at M. Bizzo's farm in Catterina, which I reported in my despatch of the 5th March last, from Larissa.

Several individual bands have also been dispersed, but there are many more still roaming about, causing much trouble to the country people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Abdullah Pasha to Consul-General Blunt.

(Traduction.)
Caraferia, le 10 Mai, 1879.

Très-honorable Monsieur,

J'AI reçu et pris en sérieuse considération votre très-honorée lettre, ainsi que la requête y incluse, de l'agent de la Compagnie Charles Hanson.

Cette fois encore des ordres sévères ont été donnés aux Commandants militaires de ces parages, comme aux officiers des patrouilles volantes, de faire tout ce qui est humainement possible pour purger le pays de ces brigands, et protéger en même temps les hommes de la Compagnie Anglaise.

Il a été même décidé de trouver le moyen de déplacer un certain nombre de soldats afin de former un détachement à Kokova et Botchani, qui parcourra journellement ces points.

Les demandes qu'il vous plaira de m'adresser à l'avenir seront exécutées avec autant de promptitude que vos précédentes l'ont été.

Agréez, &c.
Le Général de Brigade Commandant de Catterina et Caraferia,
(L.S.) ABDULLAH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 10.

Mr. Routh to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, May 16, 1879.

Sir,

REFERRING to my letter respecting brigandage round about the chrome mines, in the districts of Caraferia and Catterina, I am happy to say that our manager M. Kirkor Pashalian, has just returned from an inspection of the above, and reports that the letter you were kind enough to hand him for his Excellency Abdullah Pasha, the Commander of Caraferia, was of the utmost utility.

The Pasha not only procured M. Pashalian the means of inspecting the mines, but he likewise distributed troops in such a way that the Karadjis have been enabled to recommence the transport of the chrome, which had been stopped owing to the roads being infested with brigands, who threatened them with death if the 100*l.* asked for from M. Pashalian were not forthcoming.

I have the honour to inclose translation of a letter from one of the brigand chiefs, which speaks for itself.

I have, Sir, on the part of my principals, to tender you my best thanks for your kind exertions on our behalf, which I trust you will continue, so that our operations in the above districts are not again brought to a standstill, thereby causing us heavy losses.

I have also, Sir, to beg you to thank Abdullah Pasha for the valuable and ready assistance he has given us, and is still giving.

I have further to request you will transmit a copy of this letter to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, to whom a petition was addressed on the same subject by my principals, Messrs. Hanson and Co.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. ROUTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 10.

Brigand Chief Velenza to M. Kirkor Pashalian.

(Traduction.)
Le $\frac{28 \text{ Avril}}{10 \text{ Mai}}$, 1879.

M. Kirkor Effendi,

CONFIANT en votre loyauté j'ai relâché votre homme. J'avoue que je ne m'attendais pas à être joué de la sorte.

Pour une Compagnie comme la vôtre, 100*l.* sont une misère; mais je le répète, vous vous êtes moqué de moi. Maintenant sachez que si au reçu de ma lettre vous ne vous empressez pas de me les envoyer, je capturerai ou le même individu ou ce "Kerata"* de Forkioti, ou quelques-uns de vos ouvriers ou "Kiradjis;"† et ce n'est pas de l'argent que je leur prendrai; mais du sang, et tout le poids de ce sang retombera sur vous.

Il me revient que vous comptez vous faire escorter par une vingtaine de salops de Turcs; je vous prie, vous et les vôtres, de ne pas me forcer à verser du sang Chrétien.

Envoyez les 100*l.* ainsi que la commande de Nico, consistant en une lorgnette, un fusil Martini avec ses cartouches, et un revolver.

Nico, qui m'a fait dire de prendre livraison de ces objets, vous les payera.

Répondez si vous me les enverrez; si c'est non, attendez-vous à tous les malheurs.

(Signé) YORGHI VELENZA.

Inclosure 5 in No. 10.

Messrs. Abbott and Sons to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Salonique, le 16 Mai, 1879.

UN de nos hommes de notre Tchiftlik de Capsohori est venu nous annoncer que son Excellence Abdullah Pacha, se conformant à la lettre que vous avez eu la bonté de lui addresser, y a envoyé un Onbashi avec un zaptieh, qui, nous ne doutons pas, sauront prévenir les irréguliers et Serdars d'imposer des konaks et commettre d'autres abus, comme il était arrivé dernièrement dans notre susdite propriété.

Nous ne pouvons qu'être reconnaissant envers son Excellence Abdullah Pacha pour cet acte de justice envers nous, et nous nous empressons de vous témoigner, M. le Consul-Général, nos remercîments les plus sincères pour nous avoir procuré cette protection.

Nous, &c.
(Signé) R. ABBOTT AND SONS.

No. 11.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 2.)

(No. 17. Political.)

My Lord,

Salonica, May 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed copies of two despatches and their inclosures from Mr. Longworth, as well as the translation of a letter from my correspondent at Volo, reporting upon the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Larissa, May 7, 1879.

I BEG to transmit to you herein inclosed copy of a petition, in Greek, addressed to me by the villagers of Rapsani, with translation of it in French, complaining of troops being billeted in their houses and of the Jellep Memur endeavouring to force

* An opprobrious term. † Carriers.

the payment of last year's tax on sheep, in violation of the promises of the Porte for the pacification of the province.

On the petition being presented to me, I suggested that they should rather appeal to the Mutessarif, Said Pasha, in such matters, who would not fail, I assured them, to do all that is just and reasonable in their behalf. They told me, in answer, that a similar one had also been addressed to his Excellency.

As M. —— had since returned from a tour in the Olympic district, and had had occasion to visit Rapsani, I called him, and, showing him the petition, requested to know, in writing, his impressions as to the truthfulness of the statements therein contained and as to the general condition of the people in those parts.

I inclose herein copy of M. ——'s Report.

As the information he therein furnishes corroborates the substance of the petition, I called privately on the Mushir, Abdi Pasha, and the Mutessarif, Said Pasha, and informed them, in a friendly manner, of the complaints that had reached me, expressing my belief of their being well founded, as I had them sufficiently verified through a reliable source. I hinted at the same time at the possible effect of such abuses in the present social and political condition of the country, and, amongst other things, reminded them of the state of penury still existing in the villages of the mountain localities.

I am glad to say that they both entirely agreed with me in what I said, and sent off accordingly most stringent orders to their respective subordinates in those parts, bidding them to desist at once from such proceedings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Inhabitants of Village of Rapsani to Vice-Consul Longworth.

(Traduction du Grec.)

Rapsani, le 21 *Avril*, 1879.

Honorable Monsieur,

LES humbles Soussignés, habitants du détruit et misérable village de Rapsani, venons par la présente exprimer humblement nos félicitations pour votre nomination au Vice-Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique en Thessalie, en espérant que tous les Chrétiens de ce district seront aussi bien protégés que comme auparavant par l'honorable Mr. J. Blunt; et comme vos sentiments philanthropiques nous sont déjà connus, nous réclamons respectueusement votre influence pour nos plaintes suivantes:

Comme notre village a tombé dans la plus grande misère à cause des événements de l'année passée, le digne Représentant de Sa Majesté Britannique, Mr. J. Blunt, voulant exercer la miséricorde et ses sentiments d'humanité envers notre état deplorable, a fait des démarches à plusieurs reprises auprès des autorités competentes pour nous obtenir quelques soulagements, et c'est grâce à ses demarches que les autorités nous ont promis seulement l'exemption d'impôts de l'année passée et la défense aux troupes Impériales de venir se loger et nourrir dans notre village, qui actuellement ne contient que des baraques, dont chacune est occupée par deux ou trois familles.

Réellement l'autorité a tenu sa promesse jusqu'à ce jour, excepté seulement la perception de l'impôt des céréales qu'elle a encaissée.

Mais voilà sur le départ de Mr. Blunt que nous avons encore à supporter la même histoire qu'auparavant.

Les Inspecteurs d'Impôts du passée et de la présente année viennent souvent nous tourmenter avec une nombreuse suite de cinquante, soixante, et soixante-dix soldats.

Ces troupes, en prétextant la poursuite des brigands, nous demandent des "konaks" (logements) et nourriture d'après leur convenance; et nous sommes obligés de faire sortir hors de nos maisons nos familles pour loger ces troupes, ce qui nous dérange beaucoup, surtout dans cette epoque, où nous sommes occupés avec la cultivation des cocons.

Honorable Monsieur, notre état est vraiment insupportable, et si les autorités ne cessent pas de nous demander l'impôt sur les moutons de l'année dernière et de permettre les troupes de venir nous déranger pour des "konaks" et nourritures, nous serons obligés de quitter le village et d'aller vivre tranquillement ailleurs. En espérant que vous prendrez en bonne considération nos plaintes et ferez les démarches nécessaires auprès des autorités compétentes, nous vous prions d'accepter, &c.

(Signé par les Chefs et 65 habitants du village de Rapsani.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Mr. —— to Vice-Consul Longworth.

Larisse, le $\frac{15}{3.0}$ *Avril*, 1879.

M. le Vice-Consul,

RELATIVEMENT à la pétition que vouz avez reçu des habitants du village de Rapsani, je m'empresse d'après votre désir de vous donner des informations exactes sur la situation morale et substantielle du district d'Olympe, que je viens de visiter pour mes affaires personnelles.

Il paraît que les maux que ce pays a supporté à la suite de la dernière insurrection ne sont pas encore guéris entièrement.

Les malheureux et sans abris sont nombreux, principalement dans le village de Rapsani où la plus part des maisons sont détruites. La crainte et l'incertitude règnent dans tout le district à cause du brigandage, qu'empêche les habitants à veiller à leurs affaires. On dit que l'autorité, au lieu d'employer des remèdes propres a soulager le malade, augmente le mal par sa mauvaise administration. Les troupes Impériales de Dereli et de Tchayazi à raison poursuivent les brigands; visitent souvent par centaine les villages, demandant arbitrairement des konaks, nourriture, &c. Le $\frac{29\text{ Avril}}{10\text{ Mai}}$, $\frac{30\text{ Avril}}{11\text{ Mai}}$, et le $\frac{31\text{ Avril}}{12\text{ Mai}}$, du mois courant, trois jours de suite les habitants de Rapsani et autres villages des alentours ne faisaient rien autre que de préparer des logements et nourriture pour ces troupes. Aussi des Inspecteurs des Impôts parcourent à droite et à gauche les villages pour l'encaissement des impôts, accompagnés d'une suite nombreuse de soldats.

Le "Djelep Méimouri"* s'y est rendu deux fois dans une semaine avec soixante soldats en demandant non-seulement l'impôt des moutons de l'année courante, mais celui de l'année passée, dont le Gouvernement, par un Firman, a abandonné aux villages détruits. Dans une situation aussi désespérante où les habitants n'ont point même le nécessaire pour vivre, l'autorité, disent les villageois, devait nous secourir par une bonne administration si non par des secours substantiels, que plusieurs fois en vain nous avons suppliés, exposant notre déplorable état.

Telles sont, M. le Vice-Consul, les informations que je viens de receuillir attentivement des habitants des quelques villages les plus importants du Mont Olympe. D'après leurs opinions le seul moyen qui puisse apporter l'amélioration de cet état et qui en même temps est leur désir, c'est le changement du Gouvernement actuel, mais pour une chose pareille ils n'ont pas grand espoir.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) ——

No. 12.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 200. Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, May 25, 1879.

My Lord,

IN the course of a conversation which I had yesterday with Baron Jomini, he again reverted to his belief that, in spite of all the efforts made by General Obrutcheff to tranquillize the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia, there would be serious danger of troubles, both there and in Bulgaria, on the departure of the Russian troops.

In reply to my remark that the Bulgarian inhabitants would never be so foolish as to attempt to oppose the will of Europe when they were certain of receiving no countenance from the north, his Excellency said that he anticipated the danger from the Turkish, and not from the Bulgarian, inhabitants. The former are known to have concealed large quantities of rifles, more especially in the neighbourhood of Shumla, as well as in other places, and when the Russian troops were no longer there to keep order, the Turks would be certain to resume possession of the arms which they had hidden, and take their revenge on the Bulgarian element.

I replied that, although I could not participate in his fears, it seemed to me that the surest way of preventing such a misfortune was by proving to the inhabitants that the Treaty of Berlin was really to be carried out, and by hastening as much as possible the substitution of the regular local administration for that which was being temporarily exercised by Russian officials. It seemed a misfortune, under these circumstances, that so much delay had taken place in the arrival of Aleko Pasha at

* Collector of the sheep tax.—J. E. B.

Philippopolis, and in that of Prince Alexander in Bulgaria. Your Lordship had already urged on Count Schouvaloff how desirable it would be to have the evacuation completed by the 3rd July, and, as this was practically easy, and the benefits to be obtained by thus allaying excitement would be immense, I regretted to see the hesitation shown by the Imperial Government in giving an assurance which would so materially contribute to convince the world that all danger of complications between the Great Powers was at last happily averted.

Baron Jomini again said that the evacuation would be completed by the end of June (o. s.), but Russia could make no formal engagement to this effect. He then added that it might, after all, be found advisable to leave a couple of regiments behind to secure the safety of Aleko Pasha and the Commission.

I argued that such a measure would certainly not be tolerated after the 3rd August; and for the few weeks which would elapse between the time suggested by your Lordship for completing the evacuation and the date which Russia claimed under the Treaty, the local militia would be just as well able to keep order (if it chose) as it would afterwards; and if, in spite of the calming counsels tendered to the Bulgarian element by General Obrutcheff and to the Turks by both Great Britain and Russia, disturbances should be attempted, there was the remedy provided by the Treaty, viz., calling in the Turkish forces.

He said he was only expressing his own fears on the subject. At Livadia the Emperor and M. de Giers seemed confident there would be no outbreak.

Baron Jomini informed me that Prince Alexander would not be in Bulgaria before about six weeks hence, as, in addition to his visits to Vienna, Berlin, London, Paris, and Rome, he was to spend ten days with his family in Hesse before going to Constantinople. The Prince had made an excellent impression on all who had seen him at Livadia, and had given proof of considerable independence of character.

In the draft of the Proclamation which had been prepared for him at Livadia, to be issued on his entrance into Bulgaria, had been inserted a phrase in which he was made to express his hope that his election might lead to the glorification and prosperity of all the Bulgarian family. The Prince objected to this, as it might be understood to include those Bulgarians residing in Eastern Roumelia, Macedonia, &c., and would be sure to give offence to the Signatory Powers.

The phrase was accordingly omitted.

In reporting the above remarks of Baron Jomini, I think it right to remind your Lordship that the same story of alarm caused by the quantity of rifles hidden by the Turks near Shumla was cited last autumn to justify the increase at that time of the Russian garrisons beyond the number fixed in the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 13.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 206 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" publishes this morning the inclosed account of the proceedings of the Bulgarian deputation at Livadia on the occasion of their bringing to Prince Alexander of Battenberg the notification of his election to the Bulgarian Throne. The article closes with a lengthened review of the future movements of the Prince, as well as of the principal questions which he will have to lay before the Ministers of the Signatory Powers.

In the speech addressed by the deputation to the Prince they state that his relationship with the Emperor of Russia has contributed to gain for him the hearts of the Bulgarian people, and will draw still closer the bonds between the Bulgarian and Russian nations; and, in his reply, the Prince expresses the hope that his approaching visit to the five capitals may prove to be of use also to those other Bulgarians who have not yet obtained an independent existence.

The Metropolitan of Varna, Preslavsk, thanked the Emperor in warm terms for the infinite service rendered by His Majesty to Bulgaria, and expressed the hope that the Prince, as a relation of the Russian Imperial family, would govern his new country "guided by the wise counsels of your Majesty, which founded our happiness and are indispensable for its consolidation."

Your Lordship will notice that all the addresses quoted in the inclosed article are couched in the same spirit of devotion to Russia.

This article, which evidently is an official review of the programme laid down at Livadia for Prince Alexander, goes on to state that he will spend ten days at Darmstadt to arrange family matters, and will not reach Sophia for six weeks. In the meantime, the administration will be carried on by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, an arrangement to which the Great Powers are stated to have assented.

It has been settled that, on entering his territory, the Prince will issue a Proclamation convoking the Assembly at Tirnova, where he will also take the oath. After this ceremony has been completed he will reside at Sophia. Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff will then be withdrawn.

Three works of public utility will be undertaken as soon as possible:—

1. Construction of harbour works at Varna.
2. Improvement of the harbour at Rustchuk.
3. A railway to join Sophia with the main line of Roumelia.

Some Russian civil and military officers will be left at the head of various departments to instruct the Bulgarian employés destined gradually to replace them. The Colonels and Captains in the army will continue for the present to be Russians.

Secret intrigues, having for their object to induce the Mussulman population to emigrate or to revolt, have been already detected.

The Prince will call the attention of the Powers to the vital necessity for him that order should be maintained in Eastern Roumelia, as he cannot secure tranquillity in his own country if permanent agitation is tolerated on the other side of the Balkans; and he will point out the importance which he must attach to the exclusion of Turkish garrisons from the northern slopes of that range. He will also point out that order must be restored in Macedonia, as, otherwise, disturbances there would react on the tranquillity of the Principality.

Besides the above vital questions, there are others, of the highest importance to the welfare of Bulgaria, to which the Prince will call the attention of the Cabinets—viz., the question of the frontier between Bulgaria and the Dobrudscha; of admitting Bulgaria to a voice in the European Danube Commission; and, thirdly, he will show how impossible it would be for the Bulgarian finances to bear the expense of dismantling the fortresses within the time laid down by the Treaty of Berlin unless the Powers contribute efficient material assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 14.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 216. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 27, 1879.*

MR. MICHELL informs me that he has learnt from a trustworthy source that the Russian Artillery Department has very recently given an order for 600,000 shrapnel shells for 9- and 4-pounder guns.

These shells are to be supplied by four manufacturers, each undertaking to prepare 150,000 projectiles. The whole quantity of shells must be delivered before September next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 333.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 28, 1879.*

AS directed by your Lordship's despatch No. 353 of the 22nd instant, I have informed the Austro-Hungarian Government that Mr. Michell has been appointed Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia in the place of Lord Donoughmore, who has returned to England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 16.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 125.)
Belgrade, May 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a petition addressed by telegraph, in the name of the population of the Nahia of Tru, to the Queen, humbly praying Her Majesty not to cause them, in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, to be severed from Servia and incorporated in Bulgaria, as they are Servians by race, language, manners, and customs.

They proceed to state that they will abandon their homes sooner than submit to become Bulgarians, and to express the hope that the Article of the Treaty of Berlin affecting them will be modified in favour of their nationality, liberty, and happiness, in the same way as the decisions relative to the Eastern Roumelian frontier have been modified in order to meet the wishes of the Bulgarians.

Similar petitions have been sent at the same time to all the Signatory Powers, and they are in like manner signed by the Mayors and Notables of Tru and of all the villages in that nahia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Petition to the Signatory Powers, as addressed to Her Majesty the Queen, from the Mayors and Notables of the Nahia of Tru, praying for Annexation to Servia.

(Translation.)

To Her Royal Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and the Empress of India Victoria, through Her Representant Minister Resident for Servia.

THE population of Tru, in the most humble submission gathered together to-day in thousands in Zepolie around the members of the International Commission, beg your Royal Majesty to graciously give the most high and most favourable order to the English member of the International Commission not to fix the boundary between our Servian and the Bulgarian territories according to the decrees of the Berlin Treaty, because we are not Bulgarians, but Servians.

The name of Bulgarian was compulsorily conferred and imposed on us during our long slavery, because the name of Servian, to the Turks, was synonymous with rebel against the Sultan and the Ottoman authorities, they wilfully regarding us as Bulgarians or even as Greeks; for it made their plans and circumstances easier, continually with bad intentions.

We firmly hope now that your Royal Majesty will not permit us being obliged to bear the name of Bulgarian, nor now consent that we should be incorporated into the Bulgarian Principality, where we should feel ourselves again slaves, and not at all at home.

Our language is Servian, our national customs and manners are Servian, our dress is Servian. We are true and genuine Servians.

Amid us, in old time, lived the most part of our good and great rulers the Nemanides. We were conquered by the Turks as Servians, and we were now liberated and made free by Servian troops.

We prefer to expatriate ourselves and leave the country empty than to be incorporated into the Bulgarian Principality and be called Bulgarians.

May the Lord Almighty God help your Royal Majesty in all enterprises. But listen to our prayer; let us not be separated from our mother Servia, and not become Bulgarians.

Bulgaria will not perish on account of this, should the Article of the Berlin Treaty be changed in our favour—in favour of our nationality, our liberty, and comfort—in the same manner as the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia were changed in favour of Bulgaria.

We remain, &c.
(Signatures follow.)

No. 17.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 264.)
Berlin, May 28, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 246 of the 16th instant, the Minister for Foreign Affairs desires me to tell your Lordship that the German Government will gladly join in any measures which Her Majesty's Government may propose to the Powers for providing effective securities for religious liberty in the provinces which will hereafter be transferred from Turkey to Greece under the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 18.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

May 31, 1879.

My Lord,

IN M. Delyanni's telegraphic despatch of the 29th instant, which I had the honour to communicate to your Lordship on the same day, mention was made of a Circular note, dated the 24th May.

Having now received that note, I beg to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 18.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

Athènes, le $\frac{12}{24}$ Mai, 1879.

Monsieur,

LE Gouvernement de Sa Majesté s'est trouvé maintes fois dans le cas d'attirer l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur l'état déplorable de la sécurité publique dans les provinces limitrophes. Les rapports que nous recevons de nos Consuls en Epire et en Thessalie continuent à nous donner sur les actes de brigandage qui s'y commettent journellement des détails qu'il serait trop long de reproduire ici. D'ailleurs, nous n'avons pas manqué de vous communiquer de temps à autre des extraits de ces Rapports pour vous tenir au courant de la situation. Absence complète de sécurité, impuissance des autorités locales de réprimer les déprédations que commettent les nombreuses bandes de brigands qui infestent le territoire Ottoman, panique des habitants, et stagnation du commerce, tel est le triste tableau que présentent les contrées situées sur nos frontières.

Grâce à la vigilance de nos autorités, les incursions des brigands sur notre territoire sont toujours repoussées et si, de leur côté, les autorités Ottomanes poursuivaient les brigands avec vigueur, on pourrait arriver à l'extirpation complète de ce fléau.

Mais au lieu de nous prêter un concours efficace, les gardes-frontière Ottomans ont constamment évité toute coopération avec nos autorités, et ont même agi dans plusieurs circonstances de manière à mettre en suspicion leur bonne foi.

Nous n'avons pas manqué de signaler ces faits regrettables à la Sublime Porte au fur et à mesure qu'ils parvenaient à notre connaissance. Mais loin de s'empresser d'y porter remède, le Gouvernement Ottoman répondait à nos représentations par des récriminations.

Tantôt il prétendait que c'était des brigands sortis de notre territoire, et tantôt il soutenait que c'était des bandes d'insurgés recrutées et organisées par des Comités Helléniques.

Ne voulant pas suivre le Gouvernement Ottoman dans le terrain stérile des récriminations, nous lui avons proposé de s'entendre avec nous sur les moyens les plus propres de mettre fin à un état de choses dont nous étions justement préoccupés.

La Porte n'a pas accueilli nos ouvertures avec l'empressement auquel nous étions en droit de nous attendre de sa part. Ce n'est qu'après bien des temporisations qu'elle a consenti à expédier les ordres nécessaires aux autorités Ottomanes des frontières les

invitant de s'entendre avec nos autorités, pour arrêter d'un commun accord les mesures nécessaires pour la poursuite de la répression du brigandage.

Mais, dès la première séance tenue par nos Délégués et les Délégués Ottomans, il était visible que ces derniers n'étaient pas animés des mêmes dispositions.

Un des moyens proposés par nos Délégués, et qui dans leur pensée était le plus important et le plus efficace, c'était que les détachements chargés de la poursuite de brigands puissent pénétrer et opérer librement sur le territoire Ottoman.

Après une longue discussion, les Délégués Ottomans ont demandé d'ajourner toute décision sur ce point jusqu'à l'arrivée des instructions de leur Gouvernement qu'ils allaient provoquer.

Quelques jours après, une seconde réunion eut lieu, et les Délégués Ottomans demandèrent un nouveau délai indéfini pour répondre aux propositions des Délégués Hellènes.

Devant ces atermoiements continuels, toute entente devenait impossible, et on a dû se séparer sans aucun résultat.

Par ma Circulaire du 10 Mars dernier, je vous ai déjà rendu compte de l'insuccès de ces négociations.

En attendant, la situation s'aggrave de jour en jour. Les brigands parcourent librement les provinces limitrophes en se livrant à toutes sortes de déprédations.

D'après le dernier Rapport de notre Consul à Larisse, la sécurité a complétement disparu de ces malheureuses contrées. Au lieu de s'entendre avec nous, et prendre des mesures énergiques pour rétablir la sécurité publique, la Porte continue le même système de récriminations, et ses autorités locales font propager des bruits absurdes et malveillants pour couvrir leur propre incapacité ou leur mauvais vouloir. Ainsi, dans un engagement qui a eu lieu dernièrement entre une bande de brigands et l'armée Ottomane, on a prétendu avoir trouvé sur quelques cadavres des signes attestant que parmi les brigands il y avait des soldats Hellènes. On en a immédiatement conclu que c'était des bandes insurrectionnelles provenant de la Grèce. Or, rien n'est plus faux que cette allégation, et s'il est arrivé que les déserteurs de l'armée passée, rayés depuis lors des cadres de notre armée, se soient trouvés mêlés à des bandes de brigands, il ne s'en suit nullement que ces bandes trouvent des encouragements en Grèce. Bien au contraire, le Ministre de la Guerre a décrété contre les déserteurs les mesures les plus sévères, et toutes les fois qu'on a pu mettre la main sur des déserteurs, ils ont été punis avec toute la rigueur des lois.

L'extirpation complète du brigandage en Grèce, et la sécurité qui continue à y régner, malgré l'anomalie des circonstances et la conformation vicieuse de nos frontières, sont la réponse la plus victorieuse à toutes ces imputations.

Il est bien loin de notre pensée de dresser un réquisitoire contre la Turquie. Mais nous manquerons à nos devoirs si nous n'appelions pas l'attention des Cabinets Européens sur une situation dont la prolongation ne pourrait qu'amener les conséquences les plus graves.

D'ailleurs, nos devoirs sont multiples; car indépendamment de ceux qui nous sont imposés par le soin de notre propre sécurité, continuellement menacée par l'état déplorable des provinces voisines, nous ne saurions rester spectateurs impassibles des souffrances de nos frères de race et de religion, habitants des contrées désignées par l'Europe à être annexées à la Grèce.

Veuillez donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et lui en laisser copie.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) TH. DELYANNI.

No. 19.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Juin*, 1879.

AINSI que vous le savez, des difficultés surgirent au sein de la Commission chargée de la délimitation des frontières Monténégrines par suite de certaines erreurs de la Carte Autrichienne, adoptée par la majorité des Délégués comme un document complémentaire des Articles du Traité de Berlin à prendre en considération.

Vous recevrez par courrier une carte, accompagnée d'un mémoire explicatif des

raisons majeures qui ont empêché notre Commissaire de se ranger à l'avis de ses collègues.

En présence d'inexactitudes qui portent sur la configuration du terrain, sur la situation et les noms des localités, ainsi que sur les limites des tribus Albanaises qui doivent nous rester, le Gouvernement Impérial est d'avis qu'il soit exécutée une reconnaissance topographique générale, suivie d'une levée régulière, propre à résoudre les questions en litige, sauf à appliquer le tracé sur le terrain.

Détails par courrier.

No. 20.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 1, 1879.*

CALLING with Mr. Michell on Baron Ring, I found him much subdued in comparison with yesterday. He said that he had made the threat of not attending sittings in order to help Austrian Commissioner to get explicit instructions from his Government, which, notwithstanding repeated applications, he had never yet received. His idea is limited to this: that the Commission should exercise powers of a permanent Committee.

At the recommendation of Exarch, Metropolitan, and other Bulgarian Notables, Aleko Pasha has nominated M. Schmidt as Director-General of Finance. I should be glad, if your Lordship thought it right to instruct me, to congratulate M. Schmidt on circumstance, entirely due to ability and firm honesty of purpose displayed by him under remarkable difficulties.

No. 21.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 1, 1879.*

I LEARN that Colonel Schepelew, who left this with General Obrutscheff, is going to Sofia and thence to Rome, to meet General Ignatieff.

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

(No 464.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 2, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Lieutenant Chermside, dated yesterday:—

"Commission has returned. No practical results at Zeitoun except commencement of large barrack, and military occupation. These measures, and facts of prisoners and banditti remaining without pardon, unfortunately have been considered as indicating severe policy of repression, and have given stimulus to Mahommedan fanaticism throughout district. Grave evidences of this are not wanting. Mountaineers in terror at departure of Commission and myself; state of the country most unsettled and unsatisfactory. Presence of Commission has distinctly aggravated situation, and increased hopelessness of people. It will leave shortly, unless retained through your influence.

No. 23.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1879, 2 A.M.*

WE feel that in urging the cession of Janina, France is not only endangering Turkey, but is no true friend to Greece.

With her embarrassed finance and weak Government, Greece will find great difficulty in assimilating the cession proposed by Congress as we understand it. If we impose upon her, in addition, an Albanian war, we may retard her development by half a century. There are other dangers at which I hardly like even to hint. But French Minister for Foreign Affairs must be aware that there is more than one potentate to whom an Albanian insurrection might present dangerous temptations.

No. 24.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1879, 6·35 P.M.*

PRAY congratulate M. Schmidt in the terms suggested.

No. 25.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 256.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1879.*

Sir,

THE announcement contained in your telegram of the 1st instant, that Aleko Pasha has nominated M. Schmidt to be Director-General of Finance, is extremely satisfactory; and I request that you will convey to that gentleman the congratulations of Her Majesty's Government upon this recognition of the ability and rectitude of his conduct under circumstances of no ordinary difficulty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 26.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 721. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, June 2, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 94, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government feel that, in urging the cession of Janina to Greece, France is not only endangering Turkey, but is advocating a step which is not really in the true interest of Greece.

In the present embarrassed state of her finances, and with her weak Government, Greece will, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, find great difficulty in assimilating the cession of territory proposed by the Berlin Congress, as it is understood by Her Majesty's Government; and if, in addition to the difficulties entailed by this acquisition of new territory, Greece were to be exposed to the contingency of an Albanian war, her development might be retarded for half-a-century.

There are, moreover, involved in this matter other dangers, at which I hardly like to hint. The French Minister for Foreign Affairs must be aware that there is more than one potentate to whom an Albanian insurrection might present dangerous temptations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 27.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Montgelas.

(Confidential.)
My dear Count Montgelas, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1879.*

COUNT KAROLYI desired me to write to you with respect to two matters referred to in his letter to me of yesterday's date.

1. We are quite willing to consider the mandate of the Consular Commission as extinct as soon as the Prince of Bulgaria has received his investiture at Constantinople. The Agent will then occupy towards the Prince of Bulgaria precisely the position which Mr. White at the present moment (we have not yet recognized Roumania) occupies at Bucharest.

2. I entirely agree with Count Andrassy in his refusal to consent to the extension of the Eastern Roumelian Commission to Macedonia. I have some doubt whether it can be properly allowed to continue more than a few weeks longer at Philippopolis.

Believe, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 28.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May 29, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4, Political, of yesterday's date, on the subject of the elections to the Roumanian Senate, I find that three of the members elected by the Second College, described by me as likely to support the Government, must rather be classed among the Conservative Opposition.

These are—

M. P. Gradistenu, Jalonita.
M. J. Delcanu, Oltu.
M. D. Pruncu, Tokutch.

Prince John Ghika's support is also looked upon as doubtful, under present circumstances, as well as that of M. Bosianu, elected for the First College of Arges.

The Universities have elected—

Bucharest, Al. Orescu, Liberal Opposition.
Jassy, St. Sendrea, Conservative.

The Senate is composed of 70 members, viz.: 30 each for the First and Second Colleges; 2 members for the Universities of Bucharest and Jassy; and 8 Bishops.

The members returned are generally considered to include the greater part of the most enlightened men of the different shades of public opinion; the numbers may roughly be estimated as follows:—

	Ministerial.	Conservative.	Centre.	Liberal Opposition.	Doubtful.
1st College	10	10	4	3	1
2nd College	22	6	..	1	1
Universities	..	1	..	1	..
Clergy	2	..	..	..	6
Total	34	17	4	5	8

Seats vacant, 2.

It is said that the different shades of the Opposition have combined to obtain, if not the defeat of the Ministry, at any rate some change in its composition, and that their tactics will be to endeavour to raise some debate in the Senate affecting the Ministry before the Jewish question comes on for settlement; in a case of this kind it is almost impossible to say whether some of those who are now looked upon as supporters of the Government may not be led to vote against them, or to abstain from voting in their favour.

On the other hand, the retention of power by M. Bratiano is looked upon as

more than probable in any case, and should M. Stourdza, the Finance Minister, resign in consequence of his not having been re-elected in the first instance, this would give an opening for negotiations with M. Cogalniceano's party; should these fail, there remains the resource of dissolving the Senate.

An attempt to form any Ministry but a Liberal one would be likely to encounter great difficulties, and as a commencement it would be necessary to dissolve both Chambers, since the Ministerial majority in the Chamber of Deputies is apparently as large as they require, and any arrangement that can be made to conciliate one of the fractions of the Opposition in the Senate would give the present Ministry the requisite two-thirds majority for amending the Constitution in any sense they might propose.

The solution of the Jewish question advocated by M. Costinescu, the editor of the "Romanul," and a supporter of the Government recently re-elected to the Chamber of Deputies, in a speech recently delivered by him on the 16th May, is favourably viewed in many quarters, but the Government have not declared themselves on this subject at present that I am aware of.

M. Costinescu proposes that in granting equal rights to the Jews the number should be restricted to such as have been born and brought up in the country, and have, up to the present day, taken part in drawing lots for the conscription; and that all Jews who do not belong to this category should be treated as foreigners, and made to seek naturalization in the same way as foreign Christians, a term of six months to be allowed after the revision of the Constitution for these Jews to claim naturalization;

That the 8th Article should be struck out of the Civil Code, and a provision inserted in the Constitution to the effect that foreigners born and brought up in the country, and who have never enjoyed foreign protection, shall be dispensed from the term of residence, but must petition the Chambers for naturalization;

Further, that precautions should be taken against the alienation of the peasants' lands for a further term of thirty years; and that to control the taverns in the country districts, a system of licensing similar to that in force in England should be adopted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 29.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May* 30, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5, Political, dated yesterday, on the subject of the elections for the Roumanian Senate, I have the honour to report that the Chambers are convoked for the 3rd June (22nd May, old style).

At present, it hardly seems likely that the granting of civil and political rights to the Jews will be made a strictly party question, and it is said the Jews themselves are using all their efforts to gain the votes of the members of the Opposition in the Senate for a solution favourable to their interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 30.

Colonel Sibornе, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Galatz, May* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the spring Session of 1879 of the Danube Commission commenced on the 9th instant, and that I will forward the Protocols, when printed, together with observations on them

In the meantime I transmit herewith two copies of Protocol 329 out of its proper order, because it was resolved in the sitting of the 24th instant, when the subject of the repayment of the debt to the Porte was discussed, to at once forward this Protocol to the respective Governments for their consideration, with a view of arriving, if possible, at an unanimous decision before the final close of the present Session.

Owing to the exigencies of printing I have hitherto been unable to obtain a copy of this Protocol, and wishing to save to-day's post, I am precluded from giving a full analysis of the discussion, but this is the less necessary on account of the completeness with which the letter is reported in the Protocol itself.

The Russian Delegate, although admitting the flourishing state of the reserve fund, declared that he could not consent to the repayment of the debt to the Porte before 1883, owing to the necessity of providing for the liquidation of the London Loan, and for the prolongation of the Sulina Piers.

Constantin Effendi combated these views, and cited Article 14 of the Public Act to show that the reimbursement of the debt to the Porte has a prior claim to even the formation of a reserve fund, or the providing for the prolongation of the piers, if the Ottoman Government chose to insist upon its rights, and demanded that the spirit of accommodation evinced by the latter should meet with reciprocity.

The French Delegate having elicited from the President, M. Arendt, that his own project, on which I reported in my letter to your Lordship, No. 12, of 6th March, was the only one before the Commission, M. Herbette proceeded to give some supplementary explanations of it.

He stated that the assets of the Commission were at present 3,000,000 fr., and far more than necessary to provide against contingencies. It would be therefore advantageous to apply the surplus, together with the aid of a new debt, to the liquidation of both the Turkish and London Loans, and he justified this proceeding by the advantage the Commission would derive from discounting the Turkish Loan, thereby procuring a reduction of 1,380,000 fr. This diminution would compensate for the increase of interest from 4 per cent. now paid to the Porte to 5 or 6 per cent. at which he calculates the new Loan would be obtained.

Assuming the reserve fund to be fixed at 1,000,000 fr., the surplus of which we could dispose on the 1st July will be 2,200,000 fr. at least. A loan of 2,000,000 fr. would therefore enable us to pay 3,100,000 fr. to the Porte, and to secure at the same time the liquidation of 1,213,000 fr., the balance of the London Loan.

This debt of 2,000,000 fr., repayable by annuities of 250,000 fr., including interest, would be extinguished by 30th June, 1891, if contracted at 6 per cent., and sooner if under more favourable conditions.

Even at 6 per cent. it would represent a total charge of 2,931,480 fr., including interest, and the navigation would be relieved at this cost of payments amounting to 6,144,000 fr. to the Porte (assuming the present arrangement with its accruing interest to be maintained), and of 1,213,000 fr. to Bischoffsheim—in all 7,357,000 fr.

Moreover, the Commission would be completely liberated from its annual payments of 250,000 fr. by 1891, whilst under the present Convention with the Porte, instalments of 360,000 fr. would have to be continued up to 1900.

The Ottoman Government would thus greatly gain by receiving at once a sum of 3,100,000 fr., instead of payments distributed over a long period, and the navigation could at the same time be benefited by a reduction of taxation.

I supported M. Herbette's proposal, and maintained that it would be advantageous for all parties.

Turkey would obtain a sum of ready money, the Commission would have its liabilities immediately reduced by 1,380,000 fr., and by a much larger sum, if the full development of the present contract with the Porte were maintained, and the navigation would shortly benefit by a reduction of about 18 per cent. of taxation.

I also took occasion to support the view expressed by Constantin Effendi as to the interpretation of Article 14 of the Public Act, and to refute the arguments deduced by the Russian Delegate from Sir Charles Hartley's reports as to the probability of an extension of the Sulina Piers being shortly required.

A long discussion ensued of which the chief points to be remarked are that the Italian Commissioner declared that he was authorized to admit the principle of an immediate repayment to the Porte, but with reservation as to the means to be adopted.

The Roumanian Delegate equally recognized that the demand of the Porte was founded on equity, but that he still awaited instructions from his Government.

Baron de Haan maintained that Turkey could not establish a right to repayment before 1883, and that he would prefer adjourning the question, but with a view to meet the wishes of the Ottoman Government, he would consent to an anticipated payment.

The German Commissioner gave utterance to similar views.

The Turkish Delegate expressed his satisfaction that the demand of the Porte had been recognized as well-founded by six of his colleagues, and hoped that when the question was submitted in its details it would meet with an equally equitable solution at the hands of the Russian Government.

Baron de Haan then remarked that he would regard as inadmissible any scheme which would trench upon the portion of the receipts representing the balance of the London Loan.

I replied that I would never consent to allow the securities of this loan to be compromised, but that I did not see how the French project could have this effect, and if there should be any doubts on the subject, proposed a means of overcoming them by retaining, over and above the 1,000,000 fr. reserve fund, a sum equal to the balance of the London Loan, borrowing so much additional capital, and repaying it by instalments from the corresponding sum kept in reserve in proportion to the liquidation effected by the usual half-yearly annuities under the contract with Bischoffsheim.

M. Herbette expressed a similar opinion.

M. Arendt declared that his Government refused its assent to any arrangment which should include a new Loan, the repayment of which should be spread over a number of years.

This is understood to augur that Germany will support Russia in her desire to put an end to the European Commission in 1883.

The Turkish Delegate begged to express the hope that the declaration of M. Arendt referred to the case of a loan formally guaranteed by the Governments, and that the proposal of a loan without guarantee would obtain the acquiescence of all the Powers.

Constantin Effendi then formulated some proposals to the effect that the Commission should decide, either to repay the debt to the Porte in one sum, according to the project of M. Herbette, or retain in reserve 1,000,000 fr. for contingencies, and a further sum equal to the unpaid balance of the London Loan, and to pay over to the Porte the surplus funds in hand on the 1st June, 1879, and also in subsequent years until the total extinction of the debt.

The Russian Delegate declared that, for reasons previously given, it was impossible for him to adhere to any arrangement whatever.

I understand, however, that within the last day or two there have been symptoms of his Government yielding on this point.

Baron de Haan again expressed views opposed to the French proposal, and was replied to by M. Herbette.

I thus conform to the decision of the Commission in submitting the Protocol of the discussion for your Lordship's consideration, whilst as regards instructions on the subject of the repayment of the debt to the Porte, I consider myself from previous communications as authorized by your Lordship to support M. Herbette's proposal in the first instance, and failing that, any other mode of immediate payment which will ensure advantage to the Ottoman Government, without detriment to the security of the London Loan, or to the interests of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.*,
British Commissioner on Danube.

Inclosure in No. 30.

COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE DU DANUBE.

Protocole No. 329.—Séance du 24 Mai, 1879.

Présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Dr. Arendt.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Baron de Haan.

Pour la France—
M. Herbette.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. Siborne.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Simondetti.

Pour la Roumanie—
M. G. Rescan.

Pour la Russie—
M. A. Romanenko.

Pour la Turquie—
Constantin Effendi Et. Carathéodory.

L'ORDRE du jour appelant la discussion sur la question du réglement de la créance de la Turquie, *le Délégué de la Sublime Porte* dit que, dès la séance d'ouverture de la présente Session, il a prié ses collègues de mettre cette question une des premières en délibération, afin de permettre à chaque Délégué de l'examiner à fond, dans le cours de la Session, de demander au besoin des instructions à son Gouvernement, et de satisfaire ainsi au vif désir éprouvé par le Gouvernement Ottoman de voir résoudre une question qui est pour lui d'un si grand intérêt.

Le Délégué de Turquie rappelle les termes de la résolution adoptée dans la séance du 20 Novembre, 1878 (Protocole No. 322, § 4), portant que, "le Comité Exécutif est invité à étudier les conditions d'un nouvel arrangement financier avec le Gouvernement Ottoman." Il dit, qu'après avoir vainement attendu le résultat de cette étude du Comité, son Gouvernement a cru devoir adresser aux Puissances intéressées une Circulaire, dont Constantin Effendi donne lecture, et dont le texte est joint, sur sa demande, au présent Protocole.

Il ajoute que depuis l'envoi de cette Circulaire il est survenu un événement qui doit avoir pour conséquence nécessaire de simplifier la question, en rendant sans objet la réserve formulée, dans la séance du 20 Novembre dernier, par le Délégué de Russie, à savoir, la conclusion d'un arrangement final entre la Turquie et la Russie, arrangement par lequel la situation financière respective a été réglée.

Constantin Effendi rappelle encore que les excédants de recette réalisés par la Commission dépassent les prévisions les plus optimistes; qu'ils ont atteint, durant les dernières années, abstraction faite de l'année de guerre 1877, les chiffres ci-après: 125,000 fr. en 1874, 350,000 fr. en 1875, 984,000 fr. en 1876, et environ 1,000,000 fr. en 1878; que si les renseignements par lui recueillis sont exacts, il est également permis de compter sur un excédant d'un million pour l'exercice courant; enfin, qu'à l'expiration du premier semestre de cette année, le fonds de réserve de la Commission s'élèvera à plus de 3,000,000 fr., liquidés et disponibles.

Se fondant sur tous ces motifs, le Délégué de Turquie reproduit sa proposition, et il prie le Président de vouloir bien faire connaître quel est aujourd'hui l'état de la question.

Le Président répond, qu'en ce qui le concerne, comme Délégué d'Allemagne, son Gouvernement ne l'a pas autorisé à reprendre la question du remboursement anticipé de la créance Ottomane, et qu'il croit savoir que ses collègues du Comité Exécutif

étaient sans instructions sur cette question; que pour cette raison, le Comité Exécutif a dû s'abstenir de donner suite à la résolution consignée dans le Protocole No. 322.

Le Délégué de Russie dit qu'il ne peut pas adhérer au remboursement de la créance Ottomane avant le terme de 1883, terme précisé par l'arrangement conclu en 1869, entre la Commission et la Sublime Porte et annexé au Protocole No. 248. Il motive cette déclaration par les considérations suivantes: il est vrai que la Commission possède un fonds de réserve, mais si l'on examine les divers besoins auxquels ce fonds doit faire face, on voit que la réserve perd beaucoup de son importance: on trouve d'abord que pour la Dette de Londres il est nécessaire de prélever 1,200,000 fr.; viennent ensuite les travaux techniques ordinaires du Danube, pour lesquels on doit réserver 400,000 fr. ou 500,000 fr.; enfin, ce qui est infiniment plus grave, car on est en présence de l'inconnu, il résulte des explications données, dans la séance du 7/19 Mai, par Sir Charles Hartley, Ingénieur Consultant, que la Commission peut être contrainte d'effectuer de grands travaux pour prévenir le danger qui menace la navigation, par suite de la barre qui s'est formée devant l'embouchure de Soulina; or, d'après l'avis de cet ingénieur, si compétent, ces travaux coûteront plus de 1,500,000 fr. Le Délégué de Russie demande ce que devient, en présence de cette situation, le fonds de réserve de la Commission, et il exprime l'opinion qu'il y aurait une grave imprudence à en disposer

Le Délégué de Turquie croit devoir rappeler que la Russie n'a pas participé à la garantie de l'Emprunt de Londres, arrivé à une heureuse conclusion, pour l'achèvement des travaux, et que cet emprunt a eu pour corollaire l'arrangement relatif au remboursement des avances faites par le Gouvernement Ottoman à la Commission; il fait ressortir, qu'aux termes de l'Article 13 de l'Acte Public de 1865, acte auquel la Russie a concouru, le produit des taxes perçues à Soulina est affecté aux besoins de la Commission dans l'ordre ci-après: (1) au remboursement des emprunts; (2) a couvrir les frais d'administration et d'entretien des travaux; (3) a l'amortissement des avances de la Sublime Porte; et que c'est l'excédant seulement de ce produit, s'il y en a un, qui doit être tenu en réserve pour faire face à des dépenses éventuelles, telles que celle du prolongement des digues de Soulina; que par conséquent, s'il existe un fonds de réserve, c'est grâce au consentement tacite du Gouvernement Ottoman, qui ayant toujours en vue de faciliter les travaux de la Commission, et non de lui susciter des difficultés, s'est prêté à la formation du dit fonds, et n'a pas insisté sur le droit rigoureux qui découlait pour la Turquie de l'Article 14 de l'Acte Public; il demande s'il ne serait pas équitable d'user aujourd'hui de réciprocité envers son Gouvernement, en accueillant la demande, que dans un moment de graves complications financières, il adresse à la Commission.

En ce qui concerne les arguments tirés par le Délégué de Russie, des explications données par Sir Charles Hartley dans la séance du 17 Mai, sur l'état actuel de l'embouchure de Soulina, le *Délégué de Turquie* ne peut admettre la portée qui est attribuée à ces explications, et il se réfère, à cet égard, au Protocole No. 327, duquel il résulte, de la manière la plus explicite, que l'Ingénieur Consultant ne prévoit pas de grandes dépenses à l'embouchure pour un temps prochain, et qu'il a simplement signalé la nécessité qui se produira plus tard, très-tard il faut l'espérer (ce sont les propres expressions de Sir Charles Hartley), de prolonger les digues, pour lutter contre les progrès du Delta.

Constantin Effendi fait remarquer, en outre, que la somme de 400,000 fr. à 500,000 fr., qui, d'après l'avis de M. Romanenko, devrait être tenue en réserve pour les travaux techniques ordinaires, constitue une dépense normale, prévue au budget de chaque année, et qui n'a rien de commun avec le fonds de réserve.

Le Délégué de Turquie n'en admet pas moins la nécessité d'une réserve importante, mais il ne saurait adhérer à un accroissement anormal de cette réserve, et il exprime l'espoir que la Commission admettra, de son côté, comme une obligation d'équité, de consacrer ses moyens disponibles à éteindre ou à réduire sa dette envers la Sublime Porte.

Le Délégué de Russie reconnaît qu'aux termes de l'Article 10 de l'Arrangement de 1869 la Commission s'est réservé la faculté de rembourser sa dette par anticipation, mais il dit qu'une faculté n'est pas une obligation, et que la Commission, jusqu'en 1883, demeure toujours juge de l'opportunité de ce remboursement. En ce qui concerne les obligations contractées par les différents Gouvernements, à l'égard de Messrs. Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt, le Délégué de Russie répond aux observations présentées par le Délégué de Turquie, que si le Gouvernement Russe n'a pas garanti directement l'emprunt conclu avec ces banquiers, il n'en est pas moins moralement

engagé vis-à-vis d'eux, par le fait de la signature apposée par son Délégué sur le contrat d'emprunt.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne croit devoir rappeler le fait que la Russie a refusé de s'associer à la garantie contractée par les autres Puissances et que par conséquent, suivant son avis, le Délégué de Russie n'est pas fondé aujourd'hui à invoquer un engagement moral pris par son Gouvernement, qui aurait pu prendre le même engagement matériel que les autres Gouvernements.

Le Délégué de France ayant fait remarquer que la Commission n'en est pas encore à discuter une proposition formelle de remboursement de la créance Ottomane, mais qu'il s'agit de constater d'abord quelles ont pu être les résultats de la résolution consignée au Protocole No. 322, et aux termes de laquelle tous les Délégués, à l'exception d'un seul, s'étaient engagés à faire connaître à la Commission les vues de leurs Gouvernements, dans le plus bref délai possible, le *Délégué de Turquie* réitère la demande qu'il a adressée au Président, de faire savoir quelles communications le Comité exécutif a pu recevoir depuis la dernière Session.

Répondant à cette question, *le Président* rappelle que le Délégué de France a adressé à la Commission, sous la date du 11 Avril dernier, une note, qui a été communiquée par le Comité Exécutif à tous les Délégués, et qui indique comment le Gouvernement Français apprécie la demande de la Sublime Porte et les moyens d'y satisfaire.

Le Délégué de France dit qu'il est en mesure aujourd'hui de préciser la portée de sa communication du 11 Avril, laquelle avait simplement pour objet de faire connaître les vues générales de son Gouvernement. Il expose sa proposition dans les termes ci-après:

"La combinaison financière dont mon Gouvernement m'a autorisé à vous recommander l'adoption, a pour but de donner satisfaction à la prétention légitime de la Sublime Porte, de rentrer le plus tôt possible dans les avances qu'elle a faites à la Commission Européenne, sans toutefois recourir à la garantie des Puissances pour un nouvel emprunt.

"Elle repose sur l'idée que notre actif disponible, qui atteint aujourd'hui 3,000,000 fr. est sensiblement supérieur au chiffre normal d'un fonds de réserve suffisant pour parer à toutes les éventualités, et que si nous en prélevions pour ainsi dire le trop-plein, nous pourrions l'appliquer avec avantage au remboursement d'une partie de nos dettes envers la Porte et la maison Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt, sauf à en acquitter le solde à l'aide d'un emprunt qui n'exigerait pas d'autres garanties que celles qui ont été données à nos créanciers actuels.

"Quelle est, dira-t-on, l'utilité de contracter une dette pour en payer une autre?

"Cette utilité, la voici: dans le nouveau contrat d'emprunt nous réduirions la somme affectée à l'amortissement à un chiffre inférieur à celui de 360,000 fr. par an, stipulé dans les arrangements avec la Sublime Porte et avec la maison Bischoffsheim, à 250,000 fr. par exemple, et la différence, augmentée d'une partie de nos excédants de recettes (qui sont, en moyenne, de 500,000 fr. au moins par an), nous permettrait de faire profiter la navigation d'une notable diminution de taxes, à partir du 1er Janvier, 1880.

"On objectera peut-être que la Commission ne paie que 4 pour cent d'intérêts à la Sublime Porte, et que ce taux serait vraisemblablement dépassé pour l'emprunt à intervenir. Je reconnais qu'il faut s'y attendre; mais l'intention manifestée par le Gouvernement Ottoman, dans la Circulaire dont vous venez d'entendre lecture, de consentir à un escompte de sa créance, si elle lui est payée comptant, nous fournit le moyen de compenser la charge supplémentaire que l'augmentation du taux de l'intérêt, sur le montant de sa dette, imposerait à la Commission. Supposons, en effet, que la créance Ottomane soit ramenée à sa valeur actuelle, à un taux d'escompte de 6 pour cent, elle se réduirait, d'après les calculs faits par le Directeur de notre Comptabilité, et que j'ai l'honneur de déposer sur le bureau, à 3,099,979 fr., c'est-à-dire, à 1,379,517 fr. au-dessous du chiffre qu'elle atteindra le 1er Juillet prochain, soit 4,479,493 fr. La différence nous couvrirait certainement contre la perte résultant du taux d'intérêt d'un nouvel emprunt.

"Quel serait le montant de cet emprunt?

"En admettant que le fonds de réserve soit limité à 1,000,000 fr., nous disposerons d'un excédant, qui, au 1er Juillet prochain, sera de 2,200,000 fr. au moins. Il suffira donc d'emprunter 2,000,000 fr. pour être en mesure de payer à la Porte 3,100,000 fr., et d'assurer, en outre, le service des sept derniers termes de l'Emprunt Bischoffsheim, soit 1,213,000 fr.

"Cet emprunt de 2,000,000 fr., amortissable au moyen d'une annuité de 250,000 fr., intérêts compris, serait éteint en douze ans, c'est-à-dire, au 30 Juin, 1891, s'il était conclu à 6 pour cent, et plus tôt si nous obtenons des conditions plus favorables que 6 pour cent. Même à 6 pour cent, il ne représenterait qu'une charge totale de 2,931,480 fr., y compris les intérêts, et la navigation serait exonérée, à ce prix, de versements successifs s'élevant à 6,144,900 fr. pour la Porte, et à 1,213,000 fr. pour MM. Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt, ensemble 7,357,900 fr. De plus, la Commission se trouverait complétement libérée de ses versements annuels de 250,000 fr. dès l'année 1891, tandis qu'elle ne l'aurait été qu'en l'année 1900, de ses versements actuels de 360,000 fr.

"En résumé, la combinaison que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de vous exposer serait avantageuse pour la Sublime Porte, qui, au lieu de paiements échelonnés sur une longue période, recevrait immédiatement une somme de 3,100,000 fr.; elle le serait aussi pour le commerce et les États Danubiens, qui verraient rapidement s'abaisser les taxes de navigation, la Commission Européenne devenant libre de les réduire dans la mesure de l'amortissement annuel de 250,000 fr.

"Si vous partagiez cet avis, nous pourrions prendre une délibération, en vertu de laquelle le Délégué Ottoman serait invité à s'enquérir si son Gouvernement serait disposé à nous donner quitus moyennant le paiement que la Commission s'engagerait à lui faire, dans un délai de trois mois, d'une somme de 3,100,000 fr., sous la réserve qu'avant l'expiration de ce délai elle parvienne à se procurer les fonds nécessaires, à des conditions acceptables, sans recourir à la garantie des Puissances."

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne rappelle qu'il a déjà exprimé, ainsi que le constate le Protocole No. 322, § 4, son avis sur l'opportunité du remboursement immédiat de la créance de la Sublime Porte. Il dit que les Délégués s'étant engagés, il y a six mois, à appeler l'attention spéciale de leurs Gouvernements sur cette question, et connaissant, pour sa part, les bases du projet du Délégué de France, bases qu'il considère comme étant un moyen très-efficace d'atteindre le but désiré, il les a communiquées à son Gouvernement, lequel l'a autorisé à s'y rallier.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne pense que le dit projet serait, sous tous les rapports, le plus avantageux: la Turquie réaliserait, dans un court délai, une ressource que l'état actuel de ses finances lui vendrait doublement précieuse; la Commission réduirait immédiatement son passif d'une somme de 1,380,000 fr., et d'une somme beaucoup plus forte, si l'on calcule le montant total des versements qu'elle aurait à faire, si le mode d'amortissement par annuités de 360,000 fr. était maintenu; enfin, la navigation pourrait obtenir une diminution prochaine de taxes, et à ce propos, M. le Colonel Siborne affirme, que d'après ses calculs, une réduction de 15 centimes par tonneau, c'est-à-dire, une réduction moyenne d'environ 18 pour cent du taux actuel, laisserait encore à la Commission un excédant annuel de recettes de 300,000 fr., sans compter les intérêts du fonds de réserve.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne est par conséquent d'avis qu'à tous ces points de vue le projet en délibération mérite un accueil favorable de la part de la Commission.

Il demande encore à répondre aux objections tirées par le Délégué de Russie de la clause de l'Arrangement de 1860, portant que la faculté de se libérer par anticipation est laissée à l'appréciation exclusive de la Commission. M. le Colonel Siborne constate, ce qui a été déjà relevé par Constantin Effendi, que c'est aux facilités données par la Sublime Porte que l'on doit la formation du fonds de réserve, et que la Porte aurait eu un droit bien plus strict, d'exiger l'application de l'Article 14 de l'Acte Public, lui assurant la priorité sur le fonds de réserve, que le droit, revendiqué aujourd'hui pour la Commission, d'être le juge absolu de l'opportunité des versements anticipés.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne pense qu'il est impossible à la Commission de se retrancher dans cette interprétation rigoureuse de l'arrangement, et qu'elle est tenue, en honneur et équité, d'agir de son mieux pour désintéresser le Gouvernement Ottoman de ses avances.

Revenant ensuite aux observations faites par le Délégué de Russie sur la nécessité de maintenir un fonds de réserve considérable, observations appuyées sur l'avis exprimé par l'Ingénieur Consultant, dans la séance du 17 Mai, M. le Colonel Siborne juge nécessaire de bien préciser la portée de cet avis. Il rappelle que Sir Charles Hartley, pour résumer son opinion et ses conclusions, s'est formellement référé à ce qu'il avait dit dans son Rapport du 20 Avril, 1878, inséré au Protocole No. 320, dans les termes suivants:—"Malgré que l'éventualité puisse être encore considérée comme éloignée nonobstant qu'une expérience plus prolongée puisse même constater que

le raséient bienfaisant du fond par l'action des vagues, au nord et au nord-est de l'embouchure, conservera par lui-même la profondeur voulue, sans exiger le prolongement futur des digues vers le large, on est encore loin de pouvoir affirmer 'avec certitude' qu'il ne sera jamais nécessaire de faire des extensions de jetées, vers la mer, pour y conserver définitivement le chenal excellent que nous possédons aujourd'hui." Le Colonel Siborne est d'avis qu'il faut s'en tenir là, d'autant plus, qu'en reproduisant cette déclaration, l'Ingénieur Consultant a marqué particulièrement qu'il l'avait formulée après mûre réflexion. Se plaçant par conséquent à ce point de vue, le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne croit que les sommes auxquelles M. Romanenko recommande de maintenir le fonds de réserve sont le résultat d'appréciations très-pessimistes, et qu'elles seraient hors de proportion avec les nécessités; il ne peut pas admettre que l'éventualité incertaine et éloignée du prolongement des digues exige que la Commission immobilise dès aujourd'hui une somme énorme, comme si la navigation ne devait pas continuer à produire les ressources qui ont permis la formation de la réserve existante.

Le Délégué de Russie répond qu'à son sens il est admissible qu'un Ingénieur aussi prudent que Sir Charles Hartley ait parlé de l'éventualité de prolonger les digues de Soulina, si cette éventualité n'était pas assez prochaine pour que l'on dut s'en préoccuper sérieusement. Il relève que les causes, indiquées par l'Ingénieur Consultant, de la détérioration actuelle des abords de l'embouchure sont la série de crues extraordinaires qui se produisent depuis trois ans et l'absence des vents dominants de nord-est; et il fait remarquer que si ces conditions anormales persistaient encore, ce qui n'est nullement impossible, pendant les deux ou trois années prochaines, la navigabilité de la passe de Soulina pourrait évidemment en être compromise. M. Romanenko ajoute, en ce qui concerne les excédants de recette, qu'il lui semble indispensable de tenir également compte de l'éventualité des mauvaises années; il croit, en général, que les excédants sont un élément trop incertain, pour permettre d'affirmer que le fonds de réserve continuera à s'accroître dans les mêmes proportions que par le passé, et il peut d'autant moins accepter une pareille prévision, que la nécessité d'abaisser le Tarif ne doit pas être perdue de vue, avec la diminution de revenu annuel qui en serait la conséquence.

Le Délégué de Turquie dit, que suivant son opinion, les faits techniques invoqués par le Délégué de Russie constituent pour l'état futur de l'embouchure de Soulina une prévision des plus favorables, car si la passe est bonne, et elle l'est incontestablement, puisque la profondeur praticable y est en ce moment de 20 pieds et demi, alors que les conditions de vent et de niveau fluvial sont contraires, on est en droit d'affirmer qu'elle ne se détériorera pas quand les conditions redeviendront normales, ce qui ne peut manquer d'arriver. Constantin Effendi se croit autorisé à maintenir l'opinion qu'il a exprimée, que le prolongement des digues de Soulina n'est qu'une possibilité, une probabilité, en vue de laquelle il suffit de tenir en réserve une somme modérée.

En ce qui touche la question de droit, le Délégué de Turquie pense que la distinction absolue établie entre une faculté et une obligation n'est pas applicable aux relations entre les Gouvernements, et il persiste à croire que la Commission est liée par la faculté qu'elle s'est réservée de se libérer par anticipation, d'autant plus liée que c'est à la libéralité de la Turquie elle-même qu'elle doit d'être actuellement en mesure d'user de cette faculté.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne désire répondre à l'observation faite par le Délégué de Russie, d'après laquelle le cas des mauvaises années n'aurait pas été prévu par le Colonel Siborne. Il fait remarquer que son appréciation des excédants de recettes a pour base les résultats des cinq dernières années, non compris l'année 1877, et que la première de ces années, 1873, n'a fourni qu'un excédant de 22,000 fr.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne rappelle que dans la séance du 20 Novembre, 1878, le Délégué de la Sublime Porte a cité les dispositions de l'Article 14 de l'Acte Public et celles des Articles 4 (alinea 5) et 10 de l'Arrangement du 2 Novembre, 1869, à l'effet d'établir, au point de vue de droit, la nécessité qui s'imposerait à la Commission, par suite de l'état florissant de ces finances, de devancer le terme de remboursement de la créance Ottomane. Il dit, que vu les termes dans lesquels le Délégué de Turquie est revenu sur ces dispositions, et les explications données d'un autre côté par le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne, il croit nécessaire de faire ressortir les deux points de vue différents sous lesquels cette question se présente aujourd'hui.

M. le Dr. Arendt apprécie ainsi qu'il suit le point de vue de droit:—

L'Article 14, alinéa 3, de l'Acte Public ne règle nullement le mode d'amortissement de la créance Ottomane; il ne fait à ce sujet que renvoyer à l'arrangement à conclure avec la Sublime Porte, en disant: "Cet amortissement s'opérera conformément à l'Arrangement spécial conclu à cet égard entre la Commission et le Délégué de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, sous la date de ce jour. De même, l'Article 10 de cet Arrangement (Annexe No. I au Procès-verbal No. 247) ne parle que d'une faculté réservée à la Commission, mais non d'un devoir qui lui incomberait, de commencer les remboursements partiels avant le 1er Janvier, 1883, terme fixé dans l'Article 4 du même Arrangement pour l'échéance du premier versement. Cet Article 10 est ainsi conçu: "Il est entendu que la Commission Européenne aura toujours la faculté de rembourser la totalité ou le solde de la somme dont la Sublime Porte sera créancière en vertu du présent Arrangement, ou d'effectuer à compte de cette somme des remboursements partiels, et ce, sans attendre l'échéance des versements stipulés dans l'Article 4 ci-dessus."

Quant à l'argument principal invoqué par l'honorable Constantin Effendi, à l'appui de sa motion, à savoir, l'Article 4, alinéa 5, de l'Arrangement, d'après lequel la Commission serait tenue de s'occuper dès à présent du mode de remboursement, il semble facile de démontrer que cet argument repose sur une interprétation erronnée du texte en question.

L'Article 4, alinéa 5, dit en effet: "il est stipulé, en outre, que la Commission Européenne ou l'autorité qui lui succédera sera tenue, lorsque la situation de son fonds de réserve le permettra, d'effectuer à la Sublime Porte, *en dehors des versements semestriels* réglés par le présent Article, des remboursements partiels, sur le capital encore dû à cette dernière." Il résulte des mots *en dehors des versements semestriels* que les rédacteurs de l'Article avaient en vue le cas où les versements semestriels auraient déjà commencé, et où par conséquent le terme de la première échéance, le 1er Janvier, 1883, aurait déjà été échu. En effet, ce n'est que dans le sens du sous-entendu indiqué que l'Article continue à parler, dans le même passage, d'un *capital encore dû*, expression qui met en évidence la dite supposition des rédacteurs.

Il n'est pas nécessaire, au surplus, d'insister sur cette supposition; il suffit de rappeler le préambule de l'Arrangement de 1869, où la Sublime Porte, pour faciliter les négociations financières de la Commission, renonce formellement à reclamer le remboursement de ses avances, jusqu'au jour où l'emprunt Bischoffsheim, alors à conclure, aurait été entièrement amorti. Or, l'échéance du dernier versement de cet emprunt étant fixée au 31 Décembre, 1882, il est évident que le temps auquel la Sublime Porte peut exiger des versements partiels sur sa créance ne commence à courir que le 1er Janvier, 1883.

Tel est, dans l'opinion du Délégué d'Allemagne, le point de droit de la question, qui doit être dégagé pour empêcher tout mal-entendu sur la base de la discussion. M. le Dr. Arendt se réserve de reprendre ultérieurement le second point de vue sous lequel il envisage cette question.

Le Délégué de France relève que si l'emprunt Bischoffsheim est amorti avant la dernière échéance, la Commission serait incontestablement tenue de faire des versements anticipés à la Turquie; or, d'après son avis, le dit emprunt est à considérer, dès aujourd'hui, comme effectivement couvert, puisque la Commission a les fonds nécessaires à sa disposition et qu'il dépend d'elle de se libérer en les consignant.

Le Délégué d'Autriche ne peut pas admettre cette manière de voir, et il se réserve de motiver son opinion diamétralement contraire, dans la suite de la déliberation.

Le Délégué de Turquie adhère à l'opinion du Délégué de France, et il exprime l'espoir que le Délégué d'Allemagne ne persistera pas à placer la question sur le terrain du droit strict; désirant éviter une controverse de principes, qui, à son avis, serait sans objet actuel, il ne voudrait pas suivre M. le Dr. Arendt sur ce terrain, car il est convaincu que si ses collègues consentaient à se mettre au point de vue de l'équité, une entente serait d'autant plus facile que le résultat en serait avantageux pour la Commission elle-même.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie pense qu'il était indispensable de traiter la question de droit, par le motif que le Délégué de Turquie l'a lui-même touchée dans sa motion, mais que cette question de droit une fois vidée, il n'est guère douteux que l'on ne tombe d'accord sur la question d'équité.

Le Délégué d'Italie déclare qu'il est autorisé par son Gouvernement à admettre

en principe le remboursement immédiat de la créance Ottomane, sauf à en établir le mode.

Le Délégué de Roumanie reconnait également que la demande de la Sublime Porte est fondée en équité, mais il dit qu'il doit encore attendre des instructions de son Gouvernement pour se prononcer sur les propositions qui ont été formulées.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie déclare que son Gouvernement se place au même point de vue que le Gouvernement Allemand, en ce qui concerne la question de droit, à savoir, que d'après l'Arrangement de 1869 il n'existe pas d'obligation pour la Commission de rembourser, partiellement ou en totalité, la créance Ottomane, avant le 1er Janvier, 1883; qu'au point de vue de l'opportunité pour la Commission, il aurait préféré voir ajourner la question de remboursement anticipé, jusqu'au moment où la Commission aurait pu se rendre compte des effets que la nouvelle situation créée par le Traité de Berlin produira sur ses revenus et sur ses dépenses; que toutefois, dans le but d'obtempérer aux désirs de la Sublime Porte, il a autorisé son Délégué, sous certaines réserves, à accepter un arrangement pour remboursement anticipé de la créance Ottomane. M. le Baron de Haan dit qu'il fera connaître dans la suite de la discussion quelles sont les vues de son Gouvernement sur la modalité du dit arrangement.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne abonde dans le sens du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, et se réfère, pour compléter ce qu'il a dit plus haut, aux raisons exposées par M. le Baron de Haan.

Le Délégué de Turquie constate avec une vive satisfaction que la demande de la Sublime Porte est reconnue fondée par six de ses honorables collègues, et il leur exprime ses remercîments pour les déclarations qu'ils viennent de faire dans ce sens. Il exprime, en même temps, l'espoir que la question étant une fois élucidée dans tous ses détails, la Russie se ralliera également à une solution équitable de cette question.

La discussion ayant passé aux voies et moyens par lesquels il pourrait être satisfait, en cas d'entente unanime, à la demande de la Turquie, le *Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie* dit qu'il considère comme inadmissible tout projet de remboursement qui ne laisserait pas intacte la partie du produit des taxes qui représente le solde de l'Emprunt Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt. Il motive ainsi qu'il suit cette manière de voir:—

Le produit des taxes est affecté par priorité et préférence au remboursement de la Dette Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt (Acte Public, Article 14).

Cette disposition a été confirmée dans la Convention du 30 Avril, 1868 (Annexe au Protocole No. 214), et dans le contrat d'emprunt avec Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt.

Les taxes qui ont été accumulées dans le fonds de réserve sont déjà hypothéquées à cette maison de banque; il faudrait donc, avant tout, avoir son consentement pour aliéner cette somme. Supposant même que la banque soit d'accord, il est plus que douteux qu'elle puisse elle-même renoncer à son privilége; en effet, elle a émis des obligations particlles pour le montant de l'emprunt, obligations sur lesquelles les dispositions de la Convention du 30 Avril, 1868, celles du contrat d'emprunt et de l'acte de garantie sont reproduites, et c'est sur la base de ces actes que les porteurs des titres les ont achetés. Selon l'opinion du Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, il faudrait le consentement de tous les porteurs d'obligations, pour modifier la garantie attachée à leurs titres.

La Commission elle-même est d'ailleurs engagée sous ce rapport, puisque non-seulement elle a permis que les obligations portent en tête les mots: "Commission Européenne du Danube," mais que ces titres sont encore signés par deux Délégués. Cette forme des obligations constitue vis-à-vis des porteurs, suivant l'opinion de M. le Baron de Haan, une garantie à la charge de la Commission pour le maintien des conditions de l'emprunt.

Enfin, les Puissances qui, avec l'approbation des Corps Législatifs, ont garanti le payement, l'Angleterre qui, par la dite Convention s'est même obligée à déposer, le cas échéant, tout le montant du solde de la dette à la Banque d'Angleterre, ne pourraient, selon l'humble avis de M. le Baron de Haan, consentir, soit à payer à la Sublime Porte le produit des taxes, qui est déjà acquis au solde dudit emprunt, soit donner leur adhésion à un nouvel emprunt qui changerait tout-à-fait les conditions d'affectation du produit des taxes, acceptées par elle, soit enfin, à renoncer à leur propre droit d'hypothèque sur le produit de ces taxes, dans le cas prévu par la Convention.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie se réserve de présenter, en cas de besoin, contre le projet d'emprunt, des observations ultérieures.

Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne dit qu'il ne consentira jamais à laisser compromettre les sûretés de l'Emprunt de Londres, mais qu'il ne voit pas comment le projet du Délégué de France pourrait avoir cet effet. Il fait remarquer qu'au surplus les détails de la proposition sont encore à discuter, et que s'il s'élevait des doutes, il serait facile de les dissiper par la combinaison suivante: outre la somme d'un million de francs laissée au fonds de réserve, on conserverait en caisse une somme égale au solde de la créance Bischoffsheim, et on augmenterait d'autant la somme à emprunter; cet excédant de la nouvelle dette serait liquidé par des paiements anticipés à faire sur le montant de la somme mise de côté à cet effet, au fur et à mesure de l'acquittement des annuités stipulées dans le contrat de l'Emprunt de Londres.

Le Délégué de France reconnaît que la Commission est liée par les obligations particlles que Messrs. Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt ont émises, avec son autorisation et sous sa signature, et il serait le dernier à proposer de rembourser cette maison de banque par anticipation. Mais en proposant de ne laisser qu'un million dans le fonds de réserve, M. Herbette suppose d'abord que l'on traitera peut-être, pour le nouvel emprunt, avec Messrs. Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt eux-mêmes, et il admet, en vue du cas contraire, que ces banquiers s'en tiendront assurément à la garantie des Puissances qui couvre amplement toutes leurs autres sûretés. Le Délégué de France, vu la nature même du droit d'hypothèque, ne reconnaît pas à Messrs. Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt la faculté de faire valoir ce droit, en dehors du cas de non-paiement d'une annuité, ni autrement que de la manière stipulée au contrat d'emprunt, c'est-à-dire en préposant leur propre mandataire à la perception des taxes. Il dit qu'en comprenant le service des annuités de Londres dans le nouvel emprunt, la Commission ne changerait rien à la situation actuelle, et que Messrs. Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt, n'étant touchés dans aucun de leurs droits, n'auraient pas à consentir aux nouveaux arrangements. M. Herbette se rallierait d'ailleurs à l'idée émise par le Colonel Siborne, de porter le chiffre de l'emprunt à 3,000,000 fr.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne déclare qu'il ne peut pas se rallier au mode de remboursement proposé par le Délégué de France, par le motif que son Gouvernment refuse son consentement à toute combinaison ayant pour conséquence de contracter un nouvel emprunt, à charge par la Commission de l'amortir par annuités échelonnées dans une longue suite d'années. Il ajoute que son Gouvernement n'est pas disposé non plus à s'engager, comme pour l'Emprunt Bischoffsheim, au prompt remboursement d'un nouvel emprunt.

Le Délégué de France croit devoir appeler l'attention de ses collègues sur les conséquences qui découleraient, suivant lui, de l'affectation spéciale immédiate d'une partie équivalente du fonds de réserve à couvrir le solde de l'Emprunt de Londres; il croit qu'un arrangement de cette nature, ainsi qu'il l'a déjà dit plus haut, pourrait faire considérer cet emprunt comme réellement amorti, et donner ouverture au droit de la Sublime Porte sur les excédants de recette de la Commission.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie ne saurait admettre cette manière de voir; il conteste absolument que la mise en réserve d'une somme destinée à fournir les annuités d'un emprunt puisse être considérée comme tenant lieu de l'amortissement de cet emprunt; il est impossible, à son avis de soutenir que cette affectation aurait pour conséquence d'avancer l'échéance des termes stipulés pour le remboursement de la créance Ottomane.

Le Délégué d'Allemagne est du même avis que son collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Le Délégué de France maintient son opinion, par le motif que la Commission ayant une fois fixé le montant de son fonds de réserve, et fait en même temps les fonds nécessaires pour solder entièrement l'Emprunt de Londres, on ne conçoit pas quelle autre destination elle pourrait donner à ses excédants de recette, que l'extinction de sa dette envers la Turquie.

Le Délégué de la Sublime Porte, se référant à la déclaration faite par le Délégué d'Allemagne, touchant le projet d'emprunt, se permet d'exprimer l'espoir que cette déclaration vise un emprunt qui serait formellement garanti par les Gouvernements, mais que le projet d'un emprunt non garanti pourra être conçu de manière à obtenir l'agrément de toutes les Puissances.

Le Délégué de Turquie dit qu'il ne croit pas avoir à se prononcer, quant à présent, sur les propositions du Délégué de France, ayant à soumettre à son Gouvernement celles qui émanaient de la Commission elle-même. Il déclare toutefois, qu'à défaut d'entente sur le mode de remboursement recommandé par les Délégués de la France et

de la Grande Bretagne, il est prêt à adopter celui des remboursements partiels; en présence des deux solutions simultanément suggérées, il propose à ses collègues d'adopter la motion ci-après, dont il donne lecture:—

"La Commission Européenne du Danube, conformément au vœu émis dans le Protocole No. 322, § 4 (séance du 20 Novembre, 1878), et faisant usage de la faculté qu'elle s'était toujours réservée, de s'acquitter, par des paiements anticipés, de tout ou partie de sa dette envers la Sublime Porte (Protocole No. 140, Annexe IV, Protocle No. 179 et Annexe);

"Considérant, qu'en retour des sacrifices et des dispositions bienveillantes du Gouvernement Ottoman à l'égard de la Commission Européenne du Danube, l'acceptation de la demande de paiement anticipé de tout ou partie de la créance Ottomane est une question d'équité et de convenance, découlant naturellement du nouvel ordre de choses établi sûr le Danube par le Traité de Berlin;

"Décide:

"1. Qu'en dehors des sommes affectées au paiement régulier des intérêts et amortissements de la dette garantie Bischoffsheim, et d'un fonds de réserve fixé a 1,000,000 fr., il y a lieu de payer au Gouvernement Ottoman l'excédant en caisse à la date du 1er Juin, 1879, en déduction de sa créance;

"2. Que ce paiement anticipé aurait lieu conformément aux stipulations de l'Article 10 du Contrat du 2 Novembre, 1860, tant pour cette année que pour les années subséquentes, jusqu'à extinction du total de la dette, suivant les clauses du dit contrat, et sans aucun engagement pris par la Commission, quant au montant de ces excédants annuels, qui seront fixés par le Budget de chaque année;

"3. Qu'en prévision de l'avantage qu'il y aurait, tant pour la Commission que pour la Sublime Porte, qui en a exprimé le désir, de solder par un paiement immédiat la créance Ottomane, il y a lieu de faire, auprès de divers bailleurs de fonds, des démarches à l'effet de se procurer le solde nécessaire, à un taux non supérieure à 6 pour cent, intérêts, amortissement, et commission compris, et remboursable au moyen d'une annuité ne dépassant pas en tout la somme de 250,000 fr., lequel solde servirait à libérer entièrement la Commission envers la Sublime Porte sous des conditions à déterminer;

"4. Qu'il reste bien entendu que cet arrangement financier, s'il venait à réaliser, serait fait en dehors de toute garantie spéciale des Puissances, et en laissant à la Commission la faculté de se libérer envers les nouveaux bailleurs de fonds, par des paiements anticipés, en dehors de l'amortissement et des intérêts ci-dessus indiqués;

"5. Que si les propositions ci-dessus énoncées n'étaient pas acceptées par les bailleurs de fonds, il y aurait simplement lieu de revenir au mode de paiement stipulé aux paragraphes 1 et 2 de la présente Résolution;

"6. Qu'une copie de ce Protocole sera transmise sans retard par chacun des Délégués à son Gouvernement, à l'effet de demander, s'il est nécessaire, et d'obtenir, s'il est possible, l'autorisation d'acquiescer définitivement à cet arrangement, avant la fin de cette Session, et de fixer les dates des différents versements à effectuer par la Commission à la Sublime Porte."

Le Délégué de Russie déclare, qu'après ce qu'il a eu l'honneur d'exposer plus haut, il lui est impossible d'adhérer à un arrangement quelconque.

Le Délégué de France pense qu'il serait utile de formuler les deux systèmes, de remboursement intégral au moyen d'un emprunt, et de remboursement par à comptes successifs, sans emprunt, afin de permettre aux Gouvernements de les examiner dans leurs détails et de se prononcer sur le choix de l'un de ces systèmes.

Les Délégués d'Allemagne et d'Autriche-Hongrie disent que leurs instructions les mettent en mesure de se prononcer dès à présent. *M. le Baron de Haan* desire, d'ailleurs, énoncer, avant la clôture de la délibération, les observations qu'il s'est reservé de présenter sur le projet d'emprunt, tel qu'il a été proposé par le Délégué de France. Il dit qu'il ne partage pas l'espoir exprimé par M. Herbette de contracter un emprunt à des conditions assez favorables pour ne pas absorber l'avantage d'escompte de la créance Ottomane. Il fait remarquer que l'Emprunt de Londres, lui-même, malgré la garantie des Gouvernements et l'hypothèque consentie sur le produit des taxes, a été contracté avec une Commission de 4 pour cent, au taux de 4 pour cent d'intérêts, plus environ 4 pour cent d'amortissement.

Vu les recettes satisfaisantes de la Commission et les excédants considérables des années passées (années normales), le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie ne saisit pas l'avantage qu'il y aurait à s'engager de nouveau à servir des annuités échelonnées jusqu'en 1891 ou en 1896. Il doute fort qu'un banquier consente à accepter la clause de remboursements anticipés, parce qu'il s'exposerait, ainsi, à devoir escompter de fortes sommes, à des moments défavorables pour leur remplacement. Il constate, en outre, que l'adoption de la proposition du Délégué de France aurait pour effet d'imposer à la Commission, à partir du 1er Juin, 1879, le paiement d'annuités d'intérêt et d'amortissement s'élevant à 250,000 fr., tandis que les termes de remboursement de la créance Ottomane ne seraient, à partir du 1er Janvier, 1883, seulement, que de 180,000 fr. par an, au minimum. Il constate encore que le paiement des termes, sur le pied de 360,000 fr. par an, ne serait obligatoire qu'après le prélèvement des sommes nécessaires pour assurer l'entretien, la conservation, et le développement des travaux d'amélioration et le service des établissements mentionnés dans l'Article XVI du Traité de Paris. (Voir l'Article 8 de l'Arrangement de 1860.)

M. le Baron de Haan fait ensuite remarquer, que si l'on arrivait à payer les termes de l'Emprunt de Londres sur une partie du fonds de réserve déjà existant, constitué à cet effet en fonds spécial, la Commission pourrait, dès à présent, faire abstraction d'une somme annuelle de 360,000 fr. dans l'évaluation de ses recettes nécessaires; que de même, en payant la créance Ottomane par de forts versements pris sur le fonds de réserve, on pourrait arriver, dans quatre ans, au remboursement intégral de cette créance, telle quelle serait fixée sous ces conditions; que la Commission serait dégagée alors de toute obligation de prendre en considération, dans la fixation de son tarif, l'annuité à payer à MM. Bischoffsheim et Goldschmidt, et le terme à payer à la Turquie, c'est-à-dire, qu'elle pourrait abaisser son tarif dans la mesure d'une diminution de recette de 720,000 fr., tandis que, d'après la proposition du Délégué de France, elle devrait continuer à porter annuellement en compte, dans son budget, à moins de remboursements anticipés, une somme de 250,000 fr.

Le Délégué de France présente, en réponse aux objections de M. le Baron de Haan, les observations ci-après:—

L'Emprunt Bischoffsheim ressort, intérêts et commission compris, à 4·17 pour cent. Le taux de l'emprunt à contracter aujourd'hui, sans la garantie des Puissances, serait sans doute plus élevé, mais il ne dépasserait pas, selon toute apparence, 5 à 6 pour cent, frais accessoires compris, même avec faculté d'anticipation de remboursement, à raison de l'excellente situation financière de la Commission Européenne et de ses excédants de recettes qui vont chaque année en croissant.

M. Herbette ne s'explique pas, que quand il s'agit de paiements à faire à la Turquie, M. le Baron de Haan se réfère au chiffre minimum de 180,000 fr. par an, au moment où il fait ressortir lui-même l'état florissant des finances de la Commission, tandis qu'il porte en compte le chiffre de 360,000 fr., quand il est question des charges dont la Commission serait exonérée dans quatre ans, au moyen de paiements par à compte.

L'avantage d'un emprunt avec amortissement à long terme, si l'on peut qualifier ainsi une période de douze années, serait de permettre de réduire le crédit affecté à l'extinction de notre Dette Unifiée. Dans la combinaison suggérée par le Délégué de France, dès le 31 Décembre, 1879, la Commission n'aurait plus que 125,000 fr., à payer par semestre, au lieu de 180,000 fr.; elle pourrait, en toute liberté, consacrer immédiatement la différence et tous ses excédants de recette à des diminutions de taxe, qui seraient au contraire ajournées de quatre années, de l'aveu même du Baron de Haan, dans le système du remboursement de la créance Ottomane par à compte. En effet, par l'unification de sa dette aux conditions sus-énoncées, la Commission disposerait, l'année prochaine, des ressources suivantes:—

	Fr.
1. Bonification sur l'amortissement	110,000
2. Intérêts du fonds de réserve	50,000
3. Excédants ordinaires (moyen des cinq dernières années)	506,000
Total	666,000

Elle pourrait donc, sans imprudence, diminuer, à partir du 1er Janvier, 1880, les droits de navigation de 50 c. par tonneau, ce qui constituerait un sacrifice de 300,000 fr. environ, et procéder à d'autres réductions d'année en année, au fur et à mesure de l'accroissement de ses recettes.

La délibération ayant été close, il a été entendu, sur le désir exprimé par le

Délégué de la Turquie, que chaque Délégué soumettrait immédiatement le présent Protocole à l'appréciation de son Gouvernement, la décision à prendre demeurant réservée.

Fait à Galatz, le 24 Mai, 1879.

(Signé) ARENDT.
E. DE HAAN.
JULES HERBETTE.
H. T. SIBORNE.
M. SIMONDETTI.
G. RESCAN.
A. ROMANENKO.
CONST. ET. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 31.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 2, 1879.*

M. SCHMIDT has received a telegram, dated yesterday, from the Comptroller of the district chest at Bourgas, saying that, by order of the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, viz., General Stolipine, the sheep tax is to be remitted in favour of certain Bulgarian refugees. General Hubsch, in writing to the Turkish Commissioner, has also designated Stolipine as Governor-General.

No. 32.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 2, 1879.*

AT to-day's sitting we decided unanimously at once to remit to Aleko Pasha the financial administration.

To-morrow we discuss expenses of occupation. All quiet.

No. 33.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 2, 1879.*

I HAVE been informed, under a promise of secrecy, by the Turkish Ambassador, that the Emperor has promised the Sultan privately that the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia shall be finished by the end of June, old style. Great efforts are being made to gain Sultan himself to the Russian alliance; but his Ministers have no confidence in Russian promises, and believe their real object is only to embroil Turkey with England, in order the more easily to swallow her up. Jomini said to my informant that, spite of opposition of Turkish Cabinet,[a] would finish by accepting Russian alliance.

The officer who was to have accompanied Namyk Pasha to Livadia, alluded to by Jomini, as I reported in my No. 182, was stopped at the last moment by Prince Labanoff, as likely to arouse suspicions of Sir H. Layard. He is an Aide-de-camp of the Sultan.

Same informant tells me Russians are disgusted with Waddington for accepting the advances so coldly, and express hope of his being replaced by others who are more alive to the advantages to be gained with the throwing over England.

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[a] Group apparently omitted.

No. 34.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 3, 1879.*

REFERRING to my telegram of the 31st ultimo, all my colleagues, Representatives of the Great Powers, are prepared to call upon the Greek Government to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople in accordance with terms of French Circular of the 19th May; they only await my concurrence before carrying out their instructions. French Government is very desirous that a decision as regards the rectification of frontier should take place as soon as possible. State of Thessaly is deplorable.

No. 35.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1879, 2·30 P.M.*

YOURS No. 204.

Mr. Calvert may retain Mr. Simmons during continuance of the Commission, the expense to be charged to the accounts of the Commission.

No. 36.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 92.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1879, 2·45 P.M.*

YOURS 464.

You should warn Porte very earnestly of the danger of encouraging such grave abuses.

It cannot plead want of money as the cause of its failure to do justice in this case.

No. 37.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 3, 1879, 3 P.M.*

YOURS No. 2.

I approve the opinion you have expressed to Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 38.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 574.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1879.*

THE information which has reached you through Lieutenant Chermside of the proceedings of the Commission sent by the Porte, to inquire into the condition of the vilayet of Aleppo, gives little hope that its inquiries will lead to any good result.

The grave abuses which existed under the Governorship of Kiamil Pasha, and the outrages of which the Christian inhabitants of Zeitoun have been the victims, call for energetic measures of redress on the part of the Porte, and I should wish your Excellency to press very earnestly upon the Ottoman Ministers the gravity of the dangers to which the Sultan's authority will be exposed if encouragement is given to the excesses which have formed the subject of such loud complaints on the part of the inhabitants of the vilayet. This is not an instance where the want of money can be pleaded as a valid excuse for the failure to introduce proper measures for the just and humane treatment of the Sultan's subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 39.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 56.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 3, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 1st instant, stating that the Servian Government have addressed an identic note to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, in which they urge that recent events have proved that the frontier assigned to the Principality by the Treaty on the south-east is indefensible, and therefore to be revised.

In reply, I have to convey to you my approval of the opinion expressed by you to M. Ristich, to the effect that no deviation from the limits as laid down by the Treaty could be entertained by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 40.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Scutari, Albania, May 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report having forwarded on the 20th instant, through Mr. Kirby Green, the Consul-General, a telegram of which the following is the substance, viz.:—

Acknowledging receipt of Foreign Office telegram of 16th May. Commissioner representing Turkey having withdrawn from participating in the out-door work of the Commission, in consequence of a decision clearly in accordance with Berlin Treaty, both as regards meaning and text, I would propose that the Porte be moved to instruct its Commissioner to continue work.

The details of the decision arrived at are to be found in No. 4 Protocol, which was sent from Scutari on the 13th instant, and which should arrive in London very shortly.

I would add that this telegram has been answered by that from your Lordship, dated 20th May, and received here the next day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*

No. 41.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Scutari, Albania, May 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report having sent this day a telegram of which the following is the substance, viz.:—

Acknowledging the receipt of telegram of 20th instant, and will act accordingly.

The Commissioner representing Austria-Hungary put forward to-day a formal proposition, to the effect that Turkey should be invited to carry out the Berlin Treaty at once as regards handing over district of Gusingo Plava to the Montenegrins.

In the event of this not being done, the Austrian Commissioner further proposed that each one of the Commissioners should suggest to his own Government a settlement by way of compromise, involving a modification of the trace of the frontier as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, and further, that each one of the two interested Powers should be invited to prepare, and bring before the Commission for discussion, a project for such a compromise in order that a definite proposition might be prepared by the Commission, and eventually forwarded for approval by each Commissioner to his Government.

I said immediately that the discussion of any proposition involving any modification whatever of the Treaty of Berlin altogether exceeded my powers, but ask for instructions in case your Lordship might wish such a proposition to be discussed by the Commission.

The Austrian and Russian Representatives considered that they had powers to discuss the proposition, but the other members of the Commission agreed with me, and refer also to their Governments for instructions.

The Commission have taken note that, according to the best information to be had, the district of Gusinge Plava is in a state of anarchy, hostile to anything approaching to a transfer of territory, which they are prepared to resist by force of arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*

No. 42.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 139.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, May* 30, 1879.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 112 of the 10th April last, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the general elections for the new Chambers were concluded on the 28th instant, the Universities of Bucharest and Jassy having polled for their members on that day.

His Highness Prince Charles has issued a Decree yesterday convoking the Legislative Bodies on Tuesday, the 23rd May/4th June, for the revision of the provisions of Article 7 of the Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

No. 43.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 591.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 31, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 586 of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington expressed to me this afternoon great satisfaction with the answer conveyed by your Lordship's despatch No. 604 of the 27th instant to his Circular of the 19th instant respecting the mediation of the Powers with regard to the Greek Frontier question.

His Excellency added that he had, on his part, sent by telegraph instructions to the Representatives of France at Constantinople and Athens to urge the Turkish and Greek Governments to appoint promptly Plenipotentiaries to be placed in communication with the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 44.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 592. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 31, 1879.

M. WADDINGTON spoke to me this afternoon, with great earnestness, of the importance he attached to coming to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government respecting the Greek frontier before the mediation of the Powers began at Constantinople.

He observed that the questions at issue seemed to be practically reduced to one only, namely, whether Janina was to be assigned to Greece or to Turkey.

His Excellency desired me to ask your Lordship, privately and confidentially from him, whether it would not be possible for France and England to come beforehand to an agreement upon the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 45.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 597. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, June* 3, 1879.

I MADE M. Waddington acquainted yesterday with the contents of your Lordship's telegram of that morning (No. 91), on the question of the cession of Janina to Greece.

M. Waddington observed that the information which had reached the French Government about the disposition of the inhabitants of the town and district differed very much from that which appeared to have been given to Her Majesty's Government. He was, he said, assured that the great majority of the population were Greek in religion and language, and were earnest in the desire to be united to the Hellenic kingdom. The opposition was represented to him as proceeding only from a few Beys, whom a present of money would easily reconcile to the change. It was indeed stated that a sum not exceeding 5,000,000 fr. (200,000*l.*) would be quite sufficient to obtain their consent.

M. Waddington went on to say that it seemed to him that the cession of Janina to Greece was essential to the durable establishment of good relations between the Greek and Ottoman Governments. It would also, he conceived, place the Powers in a position to check peremptorily hereafter any demand from Greece for a further extension of territory. He must confess also that a careful examination of the question had strongly confirmed him in the impression that Janina fell on the Greek side of the frontier-line proposed at the Congress of Berlin.

I asked M. Waddington whether the assignment of an unwilling population to Greece would not be a flagrant contradiction with the whole principle on which the recommendation of the Congress of Berlin was founded. I observed to him, moreover, that resistance to the cession of Janina might come from other Albanians besides those actually belonging to the district; and I repeated to him the considerations stated in your Lordship's telegram as to the danger and the permanent injury to Greece which would be the consequences of adding an Albanian war to the difficulties he would find in assimilating the cessions of territory, exclusive of Janina, which it was proposed to make to her.

M. Waddington said that he certainly did not entertain any apprehension that the cession of Janina would cause any real danger either to Turkey or to Greece. Nor did he appear to conceive that it might give rise to proceedings in other quarters producing dangerous complications.

After a pause his Excellency added that at present the French Government was pledged to advocate the transfer of Janina to Greece, and that certainly he was not authorized to recede from that pledge. Nevertheless he could not help feeling that the prompt settlement of the Eastern question by the complete execution of the Treaty of Berlin would in all probability depend upon union between France and England during the mediation at Constantinople. If that union did not exist other Powers would step in and produce, to say the least, complication and delay. If England and France acted together the whole matter might be settled in a very short time.

He was moved by these considerations to leave no stone unturned to obtain the co-operation of Her Majesty's Government. He would, therefore, beg me to lay before your Lordship, in the strictest confidence, his desire to learn what additional territory Her Majesty's Government would be willing to give to Greece if Janina remained to Turkey. He would, on his part, give his word of honour that perfect secrecy should be maintained with regard to any communication your Lordship might make to him on the subject. He could not at this moment give any promise to yield respecting Janina, but he was extremely anxious to ascertain what possibility there might be of the views of France and England being brought into accordance. He would himself be willing to go as far as possible to obtain this result.

M. Waddington seemed to have an idea that a good geographical frontier might be found for Greece by following the watershed of a line of mountains passing to the south of Janina, but to consider it essential, if that frontier were adopted, that Tricalla, as well as Metzovo and the adjacent pass of Mount Pindus, should be given to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 46.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(Confidential.)
Dear Lord Salisbury, *Belgrave Square, June 1, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY informs me that one of the wishes expressed by Prince Battenberg to him was that the mandate of the Consular Commission for Bulgaria should now be looked upon as extinct. As in Count Andrassy's opinion this is in conformity with the spirit of the Berlin Treaty, he agreed to it.

The Prince also inquired whether he would agree to the Eastern Roumelian Commission, after having accomplished its task in that province, going to Macedonia, to elaborate there also an Organic Statute. Count Andrassy replied that one had every reason to be thankful for the Commission having been able to carry through the task allotted to it by the Treaty of Berlin, in spite of the great difficulties it had to contend against. To set it to work on a similar task in Macedonia would only have the effect of shaking the authority of the Porte in that province, where up to now it has still been able to maintain it. For this reason Count Andrassy declared that he could not entertain the proposition, of the Russian origin of which he has little doubt.

I am directed to bring the above to your cognizance. You would oblige me by sending a line containing your view on the above to Count Montgelas, so as to enable him, without loss of time, to communicate in my absence to Count Andrassy what I trust will be the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government to our point of view.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

No. 47.

Count Montgelas to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(Confidential.)
Dear Lord Salisbury, *Belgrave Square, June 3, 1879.*

I HAVE informed Count Andrassy by telegraph of the contents of your letter of yesterday's date.

I now have to communicate the inclosed, which is a translation of a telegram received this morning, and would be very much obliged for information about what you have done in the matter.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) MONTGELAS.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Count Andrassy to Count Károlyi.

(Telegraphic.)

M. DE KALLAY telegraphs that Baron Ring has, at Tzeretelew's suggestion, made the following proposition in respect to the competence of the Commission:—

"The task of the Commission is to watch over the introduction of the Statut Organique. It is the Governor-General's duty to ask for their advice in all matters connected therewith. The advice tendered by the absolute majority of votes is obligatory on the Governor-General."

Count Andrassy has sent the following instructions to Baron Kallay on the subject, which has also been communicated to Count Zichy:—

"The Russian proposition has been communicated to us, and we have accepted it. But in our opinion the proposal to make the decisions of the majority of the Commission binding on the Governor-General is limited to the one question of calling in Ottoman troops. To give such a right of binding the Governor-General to the Commission in all other cases would simply be to make him completely dependent on the Commission, and to make it virtually sovereign in Eastern Roumelia. This would be opposed to the letter as well as the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin."

No. 48.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 3, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA has named provisionally his Council, which is already at work, subject to the Sultan's approval. Besides Christowitch and Vitalis, already appointed, Schmidt is named for Finance; [?]eff head of the National Committee for Instruction; Vulcowich, a good man, Public Works; and Kisiakoff, brother of the Colonel, for Justice. The latter is a very bad choice, having no knowledge of law, and being a violent agitator.

They had a meeting to-day for the nomination of Prefects and others. I hear none but Bulgarians have hitherto been chosen.

No. 49.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 4, 1879, 4·15 P.M.*

AUSTRIANS have received instructions to oppose Ring's proposal, and I have told them you will continue to do so.

No. 50.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 259.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1879.*

IN your telegram No. 201 of the 1st instant you state that a resolution has been proposed by M. Ring which is in substance as follows:—That the European Commission has, as a mission, to watch over ("veiller à") the introduction of the Organic Statute which has been framed for Eastern Roumelia. That on all questions relating to the Statute the Governor-General is bound to ask the preliminary advice of the Commission. That such advice, which is to be settled by a majority of votes, shall be obligatory on the Governor-General; and lastly, that the choice of the administrative staff must be made on the personal responsibility of the Governor-General.

In reply, I have informed you to-day by telegraph that I understand that instructions have been given to the Austrian Commissioners to oppose M. Ring's proposal, and as I have said that you will act with them in this matter, I have to request that you likewise will withhold your support.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 51.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Montgelas.

(Confidential.)
My dear Count Montgelas, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1879.*

I am much obliged to you for your note of yesterday inclosing the substance of a telegram from Count Andrassy.

My instructions, given some weeks ago, both to Sir H. Drummond Wolff and Sir H. Layard, were almost exactly in the terms of Count Andrassy's instructions given to M. Kallay. The origin of my communications on this subject with Sir H. Drummond Wolff was a conversation of Prince Labanoff's with Sir H. Layard, in which the Russian Ambassador made a proposal very similar to that now put forward by M. de Ring. I have telegraphed to Sir H. Drummond Wolff, informing him of Count Andrassy's instructions, and begging him to continue his opposition to M. de Ring's proposal.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 52.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 47. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, May 17, 1879.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 3 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Halfi Ali Nihad Effendi, after having uselessly waited during several months for his accusers to appear, begged that a sentence should be issued by the Medjliss, stating this fact as a proof of his not being guilty; but the Medjliss delivered instead a masbatta, leaving the case open and Nihad Effendi always under a serious accusation.

Yussuf Pasha was indignant at this proceeding, and had decided to deliver himself to Ali Nihad Effendi a declaration clearing his character, when he was superseded.

The Cadi of Rizeh, who left some time ago for Constantinople, not having returned, Siiri Pasha, in consequence no doubt of the representation made to the Porte by Sir Austen Layard, energetically insisted, and succeeded at last, to have brought to Trebizond the parties who, together with the Cadi, had accused Ali Nihad Effendi of murder, and who, when here, declared that they withdrew their imputation. Thereupon the Medjliss delivered a sentence acquitting Nihad Effendi of all charges.

The innocence of this functionary being thus clearly proved, the least that could be done for him would be to appoint him to another post, as a compensation for the moral and material damage to which he has been subjected, and also as an example to other functionaries that officers performing conscientiously their duties are supported by the Government, however influential may be the parties that persecute them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 53.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 20, 1879.*

M. DELYANNI told me yesterday that he had addressed to the Greek Diplomatic Agents abroad a Circular directing them to call the attention of the Government to which they were accredited to the deplorable state of Thessaly, which the Greek Agents there reported to be infested by brigands, whom the Turkish authorities appeared quite unable to control.

Unless the Ottoman and Greek Governments are willing to combine their action to put an end to this state of things little can be done by either of them separately, and M. Delyanni said that this Government had on two separate occasions lately proposed to Carathéodory Pasha that some agreement should be come to by the two Governments by which they might act together for the suppression of brigandage on both sides the frontier, but that to neither of his proposals had any answer been returned

An arrangement for joint action existed some time back, but the Porte now declines to recognize it, and attempts on the part of this Government to renew it have been unsuccessful. A meeting of Commissioners from the two Governments took place some time ago with this object in view, as I reported in my despatch No. 89 of the 7th April, but they separated without arranging anything, the Ottoman Commissioners pretending that their instructions were insufficient to enable them to accept the proposals of their Greek colleagues.

It is thought here that the Porte, believing that a great part at least of Thessaly will have to be ceded to Greece, cares little about the state to which the country may be reduced when the time for its cession arrives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 54.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day, reporting a conflict between Turkish and Greek troops on the frontier of Epirus, I have the honour to report that the Greek Government have addressed remonstrances to the Ottoman Legation here, and also through M. Condouriotis directly to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 55.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 20, 1879.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 120 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that it is contemplated to assemble from 10,000 to 11,000 men in the camp about to be formed at Lepenos. The Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires informs me that he has not been charged to make any representation or ask any question in reference to the formation of the camp so near the frontier of Epirus, nor has he received any communication from his Government on the subject.

It is understood here that the Porte has reinforced its troops in Epirus and Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 56.

Baron de Worms to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)

Secretary's Office, 160, Portsdown Road, London, W.,
My Lord, *June 4, 1879.*

IN continuing to communicate to your Lordship details of information from Roumania, I beg leave to direct your attention to the following manifesto, which appeared in the "Romana Libera," the organ of M. Cogalniceano, who continues to exercise a very powerful influence on the so-called Liberals of his country.

I also beg leave to send to your Lordship a copy of "La Question Juive dans les Chambres Roumaines." The introduction to this pamphlet goes over the entire history of the present position of the Jews in Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DE WORMS.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Manifesto published by the "Romana Libera."

PERFECT equality for every man to obtain citizenship, without distinction of race or faith, whether born in the country or abroad.

The Roumanian citizenship may be obtained, individually, after a lapse of ten years at least, and in the following way:—

The man who is not descended from Roumanian parents or ancestors is an alien.

Any alien desirous of becoming a Roumanian will have to prove that he enjoys a good reputation, that he knows the Roumanian language, and can read and write Roumanian.

He will address his petition to the Prince, who will transmit it to the Council of Ministers, who will submit it to the Chambers, with a special project of law.

Naturalization will be granted individually by a two-thirds majority, and the Decree will be sanctioned by the Prince.

These measures shall be inscribed in the body of the Constitution.

No. 57.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 5.*)

(No. 465.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 4, 1879.*

WILSON'S exequatur and the Berats for the Vice-Consuls have been issued.

No. 58.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 5.*)

(No. 466.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 4, 1879.*

FOLLOWING sent to Sir H. Drummond Wolff:—

"With reference to your telegram of yesterday, Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me that the Porte refuses to confirm Aleko's appointments of members of Council and Prefects on the ground that they do not sufficiently represent local nationalities.

"Orders have been sent to military authorities of Raslog to protect Protestant Bulgarians."

No. 59.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 5.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 4, 1879.*

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he only waits for my adherence to ask Greek Government to appoint Commissioners to go to Constantinople.

If I do not receive instructions to-morrow to act with him, he must telegraph to his Government to explain why he cannot carry out those he has received.

No. 60.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 5.*)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 4, 1879.*

YESTERDAY I made declaration respecting expenses of occupation. It was adopted by Austria, France, Italy, and Turkey. Germany was silent, and Tzeretelew doubted the competence of the Commission.

Declaration as follows:—

"The Commission having given up the administration of the finance, I declare that, owing to the abnormal state of that administration since August 3, the date of the ratification of the Treaty of Berlin, they have been unable to find means from the resources of the province to meet the costs of the occupation, which, according to the Treaty, are to be borne by the province.

"I consider that this question should be investigated by the Provincial Assembly, which alone has power to raise additional sum necessary for the payment of the said expenses; and the result of this investigation should form the subject of negotiations between the Sublime Porte and the Imperial Russian Government and the other Signatory Powers."

This will force Russia to claim [? money] from the province.

With reference to my telegram No. 200, I find Gronelf is not a member of the Revolutionary Committee.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 61.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 5.*)

(No. 211. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 4, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 201, Kallay has received instructions which, however, seem to have crossed his application for them.

Count Andrassy considers the decision of the Commission only binding on the Governor on the question of introducing Turkish troops. If [? bind] ing on other points, he thinks it would transfer the whole government from the Governor to the Commission.

No. 62.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 5.*)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 5, 1879.*

STATEMENTS published in some Vienna newspapers of preparations for immediate occupation of the Novi-Bazar district are without foundation.

No. 63.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 5, 1879, 12·50 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 3rd instant, you are authorized to employ the same language in inviting the Greek Government to send Plenipotentiaries as that employed by the Austrian Minister.

No. 64.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 756.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1879.*

IN reply to your despatch No. 425 of the 22nd ultimo, I have to state to your Excellency that the representations you have addressed to the Porte with a view to obtaining the delivery to Mr. Henderson of the letters addressed to him, which it is alleged were intercepted by Kiamil Pasha, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 65.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 261.)
Sir. *Foreign Office, June 5, 1879.*

HER Majesty's Government are fully aware that it is of very great importance that the Porte should lose no time in appointing the Special Commissions provided for under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and instructions were sent to Sir H. Layard by telegraph on the 12th ultimo to invite the immediate attention of the Ottoman Government to the fulfilment of its obligations in this respect.

I have now received your despatch No. 217 of the 17th ultimo, and I have to state to you, in reply, that I entirely agree in your views of the serious consequences which will probably result to the Porte if they continue to postpone the nomination of the Special Commissions who are to be deputed to settle the details of the new laws in each of the European provinces of Turkey for which no special organization has been otherwise provided under the Treaty.

A further instruction will at once be dispatched to Her Majesty's Ambassador,

urging that steps shall be promptly taken by the Porte to put into execution this provision of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 66.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 262.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1879.*

I HAVE received with very great satisfaction the testimony, as recorded in your despatch No. 218 of the 17th ultimo, of your sense of the value of the assistance you have received from the Earl of Donoughmore during the time that he has been associated with you on the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the important services which have been rendered to the Commission by his Lordship since the commencement of its labours, and have highly appreciated the public spirit in which, at the sacrifice of much personal convenience, he has devoted his time and abilities to the work in which he has been engaged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 67.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Clarke.

(No. 39.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 38 of the 22nd ultimo, in which you explain the objections which have been raised by your Russian colleagues to the determination of the point west of Karaourgan from which you shall officially take part in tracing the frontier as British member of the Boundary Commission, and also their endeavours to revert to that portion of the frontier beyond Karaourgan already traced by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners, the erasure of which you had obtained from them since your arrival in Constantinople.

The instructions already sent to you in my despatches Nos. 34 and 36 of the 24th and 28th ultimo, the substance of which has been communicated to you by telegraph, will have placed you in possession of the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the points in dispute, and it only remains for me at present to convey to you my entire approval of your proceedings as reported in your despatch No. 38.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 68.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 3rd instant, stating that the Representatives of the other Great Powers at Athens are prepared to urge the Greek Government to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople to discuss the question of rectification of frontiers in accordance with the proposal contained in M. Waddington's Circular of the 19th ultimo.

I have accordingly authorized you by telegraph to use language similar to that employed by your Austrian colleague in inviting the Greek Government to take the step in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Gennadius.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, June 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 29th and 31st ultimo, containing copies of a telegram and of a Circular despatch which you have received from M. Delyanni relative to recent occurrences in the border provinces of Greece and Turkey, and I request that you will accept the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the communication of these documents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 70.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 82. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 18, 1879.*

I HAD the honour yesterday evening to telegraph to your Lordship to the following effect :—

Having arrived to-day from Constantinople, I found that the Imperial Russian Commissary, Prince Dondoukoff, and the German Delegate had arrived here the day before, and that the French and Italian Delegates were expected without delay. The Austrian Delegate was believed to be at Bucharest ; but there was no news of his coming, or of the Ottoman Commissary, who was yet at Tirnovo. Further, that Prince Alexander Battenberg would leave the Crimea on Sunday or Monday, and would proceed to visit the Courts of all the European Great Powers, taking England, I think, the second on his route, and afterwards coming to Constantinople, whence he would proceed to Tirnovo, there to make oath to the Constitution, and to receive homage from the civilians and the troops. All which was expected to occupy about six weeks.

Prince Dondoukoff added that, so soon as the new Prince should have been proclaimed in form at Tirnovo, he would himself set out for Russia.

Prince Alexander Battenberg will take with him the Deputy Stoiloff on his European tour, the other Deputies returning straight from the Crimea to Bulgaria. The Russian Commissary will remain at Sophia till such time as he sets out to meet Prince Alexander at Tirnovo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 71.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 83. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 18, 1879.*

I HAD the honour yesterday evening to telegraph to your Lordship to the following purport :—

That Prince Alexander Battenberg, when replying to the address of the Bulgarian deputation, sent to present him with the Act of his election, at Livadia, insisted very specially on the duty of Bulgarian gratitude to, and alliance with, Russia. He also stated that he hoped that his visit to the European Courts would have beneficial results in regard of the Bulgarian population outside of the Principality ; implying, of course, the Bulgarian inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia.

Considering that His Highness' speech was delivered within the precincts of the Russian Emperor's own Palace, I am not inclined to attribute any very deep, or even real meaning to the complimentary phrases alluded to in regard of Russia. It is the visit itself, much more than any general and public utterances, especially laudatory, during the visit, that has, or may have, a serious significance.

As to the second class of phrases, those namely regarding the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia, their weight must, of course, be in part calculated on the provocation given for them in the address made by the Bulgarian deputation, or the suggestions

possibly made from other quarters. But of neither of these is any information at hand as yet, though it may be expected later. Meanwhile, and taken in itself, the hope expressed, if the telegram whence I extracted it, and which I shall have the honour subsequently to submit to your Lordship *in extenso*, be correct, by the Prince Elect, may have, I fear, a disquieting effect in more ways than one, and is, as such, I venture to think, matter, if not for anxiety, at least for regret. Anyhow it seemed my duty to bring it under your Lordship's notice without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 72.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No 84. Political. Confidential.)
Sophia, May 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on my arrival here I learnt—

That the Russian Commissary, Prince Dondoukoff's stay at Livadia, was very short, scarcely exceeding, in fact, twenty-four hours.

That on his return to Bulgaria he passed four or five days at Tirnovo, partly in order to inculcate more strongly his views on the Bulgarian Deputies about to set out then for Livadia, partly in analogous employment.

That on his way hither he held a grand review at Plevna, and took, both there and at other places, measures to try and regain the lost ground of Russian popularity with the people at large, and more especially with the military.

There can be no doubt that such will be his policy, and, so far as he can obtain it, that of his subordinates, till such time as the Government passes from his hands into those of the Prince Elect. In short, he will do his best to repair the many and serious losses sustained by his cause at Tirnovo.

Hence I would venture respectfully to suggest the expediency, not to say necessity, of the Prince Elect's speedy arrival, as the best remedy to what else may have untoward results. And, indeed, the condition not of Bulgaria alone, but of its limitrophic provinces or principalities considered, delay in this matter may be not merely inconvenient in its consequences, but even dangerous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 73.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 86. Political.)
Sophia, May 22, 1879.

My Lord,

ON discussion with my French, German, and Italian colleagues, all of whom are now present here, the Austrian Delegate and the Ottoman Commissary being alone absent, I have the honour to report that I found them, especially the Italian, somewhat uncertain as to the expediency of our presence at the ceremony of Prince Alexander's entry on his government by taking the oath required by the Constitution at Tirnovo.

For myself, I beg respectfully to submit, the presence of the Delegates on that solemn and definitive occasion, when the Prince Elect takes the actual exercise of power out of the hands of the Imperial Russian Commissary into his own, thereby giving effect to one of the leading provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, seems to me not only expedient, but even, in a manner, necessary. And this view I put forward suggestively in my conversation with my colleagues.

But I have here the honour further to note that, the topic having been touched on in the presence of the Russian Commissary, I remarked a real though guardedly-expressed reluctance on the part of his Excellency to such presence of ours on the occasion in question. Connecting this reluctance with the studied preparations for a brilliant and elaborate ceremonial, in which his Excellency will make a principal, and possibly would not unwillingly make the sole figure, and considering other circumstances, some certain, some not improbable on an occasion of the kind, the last left to the Russian Provisional

Administration, I cannot but, subject to your Lordship's opinion, think the presence of the European Delegates at the Tirnovo inauguration as of real importance, not merely in its confirmatory, but in its, possibly, restrictive effect, from several points of view.

Accordingly, I have now the honour respectfully to request your Lordship's gracious instructions on this matter, and I venture humbly to add that, as some difficulty may occur in securing conveyance, should the doing so be left till a late hour on an occasion of the sort, I would beg that, in case your Lordship desires my going, I may be honoured by those instructions at an early date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 74.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 87. Political.)
Sophia, May 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a French translation, as given in the local papers, of the Russian Emperor's allocution to the "Bulgarians of the Principality," published in Russian by the Adjutant-General Obroucheff during his visit at Tirnovo on the 14th instant.

The document was read twice; once at the cathedral of the town to the assembled people, and again in presence of the troops drawn up on the public square. It was accompanied by a Bulgarian translation, which was soon after printed, and extensively distributed. The whole took place under the direction of the Imperial Russian Commissary, then present at Tirnovo.

So far as I can learn, General Obroucheff's mission and Proclamation have attracted little attention and occasioned no excitement. The Imperial allocution contains, in fact, nothing but foregone conclusions, taken from a Russian point of view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Allocution read by Adjutant-General Obrutcheff in public at Tirnovo, May $\frac{14}{26}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

Bulgares de la Principauté!

ME conformant aux stipulations de Berlin, j'ai donné l'ordre à mes troupes qui occupent votre territoire d'en commencer l'évacuation après l'expiration du terme fixé par le Traité.

A cette occasion je ne saurais manquer de vous remercier de l'accueil cordial que vous fîtes à mes armées lors de leur entrée dans votre pays, des sympathies et des sentiments de véritable fraternité que vous n'avez cessé de leur prodiguer pendant toute la durée de leur séjour parmi vous.

Comme vous avez vous-même combattu dans les rangs de ma brave armée, et comme vous avez avec elle supporté toutes les fatigues de la guerre, vous vous êtes habitués à l'estimer, à l'aimer, et vous avez avec elle partagé la gloire de ses exploits héroïques.

Je suis heureux d'avoir pu m'assurer, par vos manifestations répétées, de vos sentiments de dévoûment et de la reconnaissance envers moi, et envers toute la nation Russe, pour le secours désintéressé que vous a été porté à l'époque des cruelles épreuves que vous avez subies, pour les sacrifices que l'œuvre de votre délivrance à coûtés. Convaincu de la sincérité de ces sentiments, je ne doute pas que vous, les témoins des grands événements qui ont jété la base de votre indépendance, conserverez toujours dans vos cœurs les mêmes sentiments que vous les léguerez et transmettrez à la postérité.

Au moment où mes armées entraient dans votre pays je vous muongais mon intention de sauvegarder votre nationalité et de vous garantir des droits dont jouit toute société policée.

Dieu a béni les armes prises pour la protection de votre juste cause, et grâce à Son secours, j'ai réalisé mon désir.

Les Puissances ne purent, par sentiment de justice, refuser de reconnaître les droits

civiques de la nationalité Bulgare. Le Traité de Berlin a définitivement confirmé ces droits et garanti votre indépendance en jetant, par la création d'une Principauté Bulgare, une base solide au développement progressif de votre nationalité.

Bulgares de la Principauté!

Vous entrez dans une nouvelle voie, dans laquelle l'attention des Puissances qui ont pris part à l'œuvre de votre régénération vous suivra; c'est à vous de vous montrer un peuple digne d'une vie politique indépendante, et suffisamment mûr pour pouvoir profiter des droits qui vous sont accordés.

Par l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la Principauté vous avez posé le fondement de votre organisation, et vous vous y êtes réservé une part considérable dans les affaires publiques. Je ne doute pas que vous ne sachiez vous pénétrer des principes proclamés dans les bases de la Constitution, et que vous ne les employiez au profit de votre développement.

Vous vous choisirez un Prince qui sera votre guide et le représentant de vos intérêts devant les Puissances. Unis à votre élu, vous mettrez les premiers pas sur le chemin tracé par les Puissances, et, sans dévier, vous marcherez vers le but que la Providence vous a prédestiné.

En saluant le futur premier Prince de Bulgarie, je salue en sa personne aussi la renaissance de la nation Bulgare.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Avril*, 1879.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

No. 75.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 88. Political.)

Sophia, May 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward a translation of Prince Alexander's answer to the Bulgarian deputation, on receiving from it the Act of his election, as reported by telegram from Livadia.

In my despatch No. 83 of the 18th instant, extending a telegram forwarded by myself the day previous, I had the honour of calling your Lordship's attention to the expressions used by Prince Alexander, relative to the Bulgarians outside the Principality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Reply made by Prince Alexander of Battenberg to the Bulgarian Deputation at Livadia, May $\frac{1}{13}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

"While accepting from your hands the Act of my election, I thank you sincerely for the confidence you have placed in me; and, praying for Divine assistance in this holy work, I will endeavour, with all my might, to justify that confidence. I appreciate your feelings of unbounded gratitude towards the liberator of our country; may these feelings be a further guarantee of our close connection with the Russian people. On the point of undertaking a journey to the several Courts of the European Powers, I indulge a hope that my visits there may not be without advantage for such of our brethren as have not yet had the good fortune to obtain that independence with which we have been rewarded. I look forward eagerly to the moment when I shall set foot on the ground of my new country. Till then, farewell; and God defend Bulgaria."

Shortly afterwards, the Prince Elect presented the Bulgarian Deputation to the Russian Emperor, saying, "Having received from the Representatives of the Bulgarian people the Act of my election, I count it my first and holy duty, at their head, to express to your Majesty the boundless gratitude of the Bulgarian people towards their liberator."

No. 76.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 89. Political.)

Sophia, May 23, 1879.

My Lord,

REGARDING the south-western and western frontiers of this Principality, I have the honour to report:—

That a very unsettled condition of affairs seems to prevail along the line westward from Samakoff, by Jumaa, and up to Kustendil. Villages are said to have been recently attacked, men killed, and cattle, to the number of 500 head, carried off, the border Mahometans, and even the regular Turkish troops, being, according to Russian official and Bulgarian private reports, the culprits in these matters. Local circumstances considered, it may reasonably be apprehended that troubles of the kind, whatever their real character and origin, with occasional bloodshed, will continue to occur along the line just indicated till the regular delimitation of this part of the frontier, with its proper results, shall have taken place. And, from this point of view, I cannot but regret that this very section has been reserved by the Frontier Commission to the last of their work, nor will accordingly be visited and authoritatively defined by them till after a considerable lapse of time.

The persistent troubles on the southern part of the western or Bulgaro-Servian frontier, where, according to Bulgarian statement, the Servians have occupied about twenty villages belonging, according to the delimitation assigned by the Treaty of Berlin, to Bulgaria, and included in the districts of Radomir and Sophia, will, it is hoped, be set at rest by the labours of the Servian Frontier Commission, of which the Russian member, Colonel Kaulbars, will, as I am informed, pay a visit to the Imperial Russian Commissary, at present here resident, within a few days.

An officer, holding the rank of Colonel, was yesterday despatched by the Russian Commissary to the Servian frontier, in the direction of Widdin, to examine into and remedy the reported encroachments of the Servians on Bulgarian territory belonging to the Kula or Adlich district. These encroachments, as well as those mentioned immediately before, have, since last summer, been an enduring cause of much bitterness between the Servian and Bulgarian populations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 77.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 90. Political.)

Sophia, May 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that an American missionary establishment at Samakoff, being desirous to erect a theological school after the tenets of their sect on a piece of ground belonging to them within the town limits, applied two months since for permission so to do, to the local authorities, by whom they were referred to the Central Administration at Sophia; which in turn declined to give any decision till the return of the Imperial Russian Commissary from Tirnovo.

That event having now taken place, and the missionaries in question having requested me, as their officious protector, there being no official Consular representative of the United States in these parts, to recommend their petition above stated to the Russian Commissary, I complied with their wish.

His Excellency, after some consideration, answered that he would not take on himself the responsibility of permission, but preferred leaving it to the Prince Elect, shortly expected here, I, in answer, urged the absolute legality of the permission requested; and, on the Commissary's persisting in his resolution to leave the matter unsettled so far as he was concerned, subjoined that I considered his conduct wrong, and regretted it accordingly. Not having, however, official right of insistance, I then let the affair alone.

As the Prince Elect will, in fact, soon be here, the inconvenience of delay in permission that must ultimately be accorded, is not very serious. I have rather reported the incident to your Lordship as an instance of the policy of favour-seeking at any cost, so markedly adopted of late by the Russian Commissary towards the Bulgarians, and especially the clergy, even at the cost of legality and constitutional right. For the active opposition to

American missionary establishments hereabouts does not emanate from the Bulgarian laity in general, which mostly regards such establishments with great indifference, and even occasionally with a kind of tolerant favour, but from the Bulgarian clergy, and especially the Episcopate, jealous of its monopoly, and hostile to all apprehended encroachments on it. And it is chiefly in the view of conciliating this interested section of Bulgarian nationality, that the Russian Commissiary shapes his line of action in this as in more than one other analogous instance; not, perhaps, without hope of creating a difficulty, however trifling, for the Government which is to succeed his own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 78.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 91. Political.)
Sophia, May 24, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH regard to the Russian evacuation of this Principality, I have the honour to report as follows:—

Special regulations on the subject render it difficult to obtain at any given moment accurate information regarding the movements of the different army corps; and this difficulty is augmented here by the fact of Sophia's being situated out of the lines by which the greater part of the army of occupation leaves the country. But, according to what information I have received by letters from Rustchuk and Varna, added to that gathered from travellers within the territory, and to what I have been able to observe myself on the road to and fro, I should estimate that the greater part of the Russian cavalry and field artillery, together with about one-fourth of the infantry force, that is, a Division and a half, have already left the country; and the movement is going on rapidly for those who yet remain. I have also received official contradiction of a rumour, according to which fresh troops were said to have been despatched to the Macedonian frontier.

One hundred and six Russian officers employed in the regimental cadres of the Bulgarian and East Roumelian militias have just been replaced by as many native Bulgarian or East Roumelian officers, formed in the Military Training School at this place. About thirty or forty more are spoken of as similarly exchanged. The number of Russian officers now remaining in the cadres of Bulgaria and East Roumelia together is given at about eighty.

I should add that no East Roumelian cadets now remain in the military training establishments of Bulgaria.

For what regards the civil evacuation, all the Russan district Governors, twenty-six in number, have been already replaced by Bulgarians. No Russians, the Acting Minister of Justice and one or two clerks excepted, remain in the Judicial Department. But the Acting Ministry of the Interior, and that of Finance, are yet chiefly manned by Russians; most, if not all, of whom not only expect but desire to go home immediately on the arrival of the Prince Elect. In fact, the general feeling among the Russian officials, civil or military, is, from various causes, such, that it would be much more difficult to retain the majority of them in this country than to persuade them to leave it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 79.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 92. Political.)
Sophia, May 25, 1879.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my despatch No. 91, Political, yesterday's date, I have the honour now to supply an exact list of the native students of the Military College here established, who, having passed their examinations, yesterday received their rank, and at once proceed to replace the Russian officers in the cadres of the Bulgarian and East Roumelian militias.

Bulgarian militia: rank of Sub-Lieutenant: 2 infantry, 1 cavalry, 5 artillery; rank of Ensign: 69 infantry, 4 cavalry, 17 artillery, 4 sappers. Total, 102.

East Roumelian militia: rank of Ensign, 50. Total, 152.

There are no more pupils from East Roumelia remaining in the Military College at Sophia.

The young officers above enumerated, whether Bulgarian or Roumelian, have already proceeded to join their respective regiments on duty, in place of the Russian officers withdrawn from the cadres. Ten of the Bulgarian ensigns will, however, in the autumn, leave for the Military College at St. Petersburg, there to complete their studies. It is to be noted that ninety young Bulgarians were, some months since, sent to the Military School at Elizabethgrad, in Russia, and forty-two more to be similarly trained at St. Petersburg and Tula.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 80.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 93. Political.)
Sophia, May 25, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY evening I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship to the following purport:—

That the general condition of affairs in the Principality is by no means satisfactory; that many acts of brigandage and disorder are reported from different quarters; that serious disturbances are threatened on the Macedonian frontier; and that it is much to be wished that the present interregnum may be put an end to as quickly as possible by the arrival of the Prince Elect.

Periods of transition are commonly critical, and their prolongation injurious; but the reasons why this should be especially the case in Bulgaria just now are too evident to require detailed enumeration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 81.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 83. Political.)
Cettigné, May 23, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 78, Political, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that I have observed the existence here of a feeling of suppressed, but still intense, anger at the surrender to Austria of the small piece of territory comprised under the name of Spica.

Prince Nicholas asked me if I had noticed it, and, at the same time, whether I had heard that his Government had shown by a single word or act how hard the cession had been felt to be, seeing that the district had been wrested from Turkey at the price of much blood and many precious lives.

I had to admit that, on the contrary, Colonel Thömmel, the Austrian Minister, had repeatedly told me that the conduct of His Highness and of his Government with regard to the scrupulous and honourable observance of the engagements of the Treaty of Berlin was worthy of the highest praise.

Prince Nicholas said that up to the very last moment he had hoped against hope that the more than obligations under which Austria had fallen to him when she was met by resistance in the Herzegovina and Bosnia would lead the Emperor to perform an act of generosity which would have for ever afterwards made his little Principality cling for support to its mighty neighbour. But, instead, Montenegro had felt a sudden squeeze of the hand on its throat which will eventually strangle it.

His Highness went on to say: and still, with these facts before them, the Turkish Government appeared to be more anxious to oppose every petty Montenegrin interest than to avoid a grasp which was tightening with equal fatality on the Ottoman European possessions. He had lately ventured to recall to the mind of Rizah Pasha, the Boundary Commissioner, the fable of the ensnared lion and the friendly mouse, but he presumed the lion had not yet perceived the net in which he was enveloped.

Language to the same effect was used to me by the Minister President, M. Bejdar Petrovich, and other influential Voïvodas, who all deprecated the conduct of the Turkish authorities in North Albania, who were doing everything in their power, by irritating restrictions on the intercourse between the two countries, to rekindle the traditional hatred of the Montenegrins, and which a wise policy could now set at rest once and for ever. These gentlemen said they clearly perceived they were being reserved for again serving as the catspaw found so useful in the Herzegovina, and they were, therefore, prepared to assist and not to impede the development of a strong Turkish province on their southern frontier that they might remain with the advantage of having two powerful neighbours instead of only one.

As the whole of the statements contained in this Report were volunteered to me, and did not result from observations made by me, I am somewhat inclined to believe that they may have been inspired by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Speyer, who, I ascertained, was in active correspondence with Constantinople, and was dispatching a special courier to Prince Labanoff, which is rarely done from Cettigné.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 82.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 84. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 25, 1879.*

I HAVE had the honour of informing Sir Henry Layard, in reply to his Excellency's telegram of the 19th instant, that during my recent visit to Cettigné I was able to understand that the desire for some modification to be effected in the frontier near Goussinié still exists. However, M. Lippich, the Austrian Demarcation Commissioner, having made a proposal on the subject to his colleagues, I deemed it expedient not to lead Prince Nicholas, for the moment, to believe that the Turkish Government is disposed to come to an understanding on the subject, fearing that he might be induced to put forward exaggerated claims. I, therefore, left the Prince under the impression that I considered his pretended determination to require a strict compliance with the terms of the Treaty as perfectly natural.

I am of opinion that a properly empowered Turkish functionary might induce Montenegro, by direct negotiation with the Prince, to renounce its right to Goussinié Plava. The Porte might even make use with success of such a man as Hussein Pasha, if it carefully instilled into him the conviction that Goussinié would necessarily have to be delivered to Montenegro unless he succeeded in inducing the Principality to consent to an exchange of territory.

I returned from Cettigné last night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 83.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 85. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 26, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 80 and 84, Political, of the 17th and 25th instant, I have the honour to report that I am under the impression, from what I gathered at Cettigné from Colonel Thömmel, that the Austrian Government has ascertained that the cession of the district of Goussinié-Plava to Montenegro would not be advantageous for Albania or for the military position to be occupied by Austria in the Novi-Bazar Sandjak.

Colonel Thömmel has, therefore, drawn up a proposal for the modification of the Montenegrin frontier, which approaches very closely to the extreme limit recommended in my despatch No. 70 of the 23rd October, 1876, and which, I believe, falls in with the views of Prince Nicholas, who has become anxious to transform Podgoritza into his capital, after obtaining for it a secure military cordon.

The question of the exchange of territory for the district of Goussinié-Plava has

now, therefore, if the less interested of the Treaty Powers accept the views of Austria, become a matter for direct arrangement between Turkey and Montenegro.

But, lest your Lordship should prefer a strict adherence to the frontier laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, I think it right to express my opinion that, with pressure in the proper quarter, that boundary could be followed.

There is no doubt that the inhabitants of Goussinié-Plava would prefer to remain under Turkish rule, and that, if the Montenegrins accepted the invitation of the Turkish Government to proceed and take possession of the district, they would be violently and possibly successfully resisted. It is, however, also as certain that the Ottoman authorities in these provinces have encouraged and prepared the Goussiniotes in the course they are following, and that, as in the organization of the Albanian League, the opposition to the surrender of Spuz and Podgoritza, and the other difficulties encountered here, the withdrawal of the vital energy infused through the secret workings of Turkish officials would cause the backbone of resistance to give way immediately.

It would not be prudent nor right for the Boundary Commission to attempt to penetrate into the mountains of Goussinié without a distinct assurance from the Turkish Government that its safety was guaranteed, and, at the same time, the stale expedients of Nasif Pasha, of Kossovo, and Hussein Pasha, of Scutari, to terrorize those around them into the belief that the Government is powerless, and that the Arnaouts are beyond control, ought to be put a stop to by the Porte. I am convinced that an energetic officer, with five or six battalions, properly supported by the local authorities, and having public and positive orders from Constantinople to place the Montenegrins in possession of Gouissinié, would meet with but little more opposition than arose when Spuz and Podgoritza had at last to be surrendered.

Only, as long as Hussein Pasha remains here, as Nasif Pasha continues at Kossovo, and as the murderers of Mehemed Ali Pasha, and other culprits, are rewarded with Government employment, no European Commissioner ought to be allowed to hazard his life to carry out a task prearranged to fail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 84.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch, with copy of its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Sublime Porte relative to the late serious conflicts between the Ottoman troops and Greek insurgent bands in the district of Tricalla, in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 84.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, May 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of Mr. Longworth's despatch, furnishing the particulars of the serious conflicts which, as reported in my telegram of the 16th instant, have recently occurred between the Ottoman troops and Greek insurgent bands in the district of Tricalla, in Thessaly.

Mehmed Pasha, the Vice-Admiral commanding the Ottoman squadron in the Archipelago, who arrived here from Volo on the 22nd instant, informs me that there is very strong ground for presuming that these bands were sent from Greece by the Revolutionary Committee to renew disturbances in Thessaly. He also told me that the Ottoman troops captured from these bands the large sum of £T. 10,000 in gold, besides several horse-loads of needle-guns and ammunition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 84.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, May 21, 1879.*

ON the 15th instant I dispatched to you a telegram worded thus:—

"Strong proofs reach me that above 200 insurgents had been in Tricalla district, mostly consisting of Greek soldiers. In two encounters, 90 killed, 5 wounded; Turkish troops, 113 killed, 52 wounded."

With reference to this telegram, I beg now to furnish the following Report, the details of which were carefully derived from official telegrams, Greek and Turkish private letters, and accounts given by Christian and Mahommedan travellers from Tricalla. As the information, however, obtained from the above private sources is at variance in some respects with the statements made by the civil and military authorities of Tricalla, I shall also endeavour to point out such difference in the course of the Report.

On the 7th instant a party of 35 soldiers of the Saframbol Regiment, stationed at Kalabaka, three hours from Tricalla, were dispatched by Major General Hassan Pasha (in command of the troops in that district) to the forests of Perlango, six hours further north, to fetch walnut-wood for the making of furniture. Officially it is stated that they went there to bring fuel, but it is a well-known fact that near Kalabaka firewood is to be had in plenty.

In the forest of Perlango this unfortunate party was attacked by three bands of insurgents, numbering about 220 men, under the declared leadership of the Cretan insurgent Chief Phermaki, Captain Cordista of the Greek army, and the insurrectionary agent Paminonda Vulgario. Only 12 of the 35 soldiers escaped to tell the tale, the rest having been killed, together with their officer, Lieutenant Mehmet Effendi, who was horribly mutilated and hung in sections on the trees. Officially it is stated that the other bodies also underwent this hideous treatment.

On the following morning, the news of this slaughter reaching Tricalla, Hassan Pasha at once ordered a battalion of the Konia Regiment to go in pursuit of the insurgents.

The battalion consisted of 550 men, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Abdul Rahman Bey and Major Salli Effendi. The troops stationed in the surrounding villages of the Perlango forest were also called out, together with about 150 armed Rayahs from Diskata, Tznika, and Flamborissi, thus forming a collective force of about 1,700 men, which were divided into six detachments.

It appears that the night before a dispute arose between the insurgent chiefs, and that the quarrel resulted in their separation, for of the three leaders only Phermaki, with his band of 96 followers, remained in those localities.

The detachments from Tricalla discovered the band concealed in the forest of Diskata at a most critical moment. The insurgents were lying in wait for the troops to advance, when from among themselves a rifle went off by accident. The soldiers retreated, the insurgents sallied out, the troops mustered again, and a guerilla fight ensued.

After an engagement of four hours and a half behind trees and rocks, Major Salli Effendi attacked the insurgents in the rear, and completed their destruction, 91 of them having been killed and 5 wounded.

In the official telegrams and reports it is stated that on the Turkish side only 14 were killed and 19 wounded, although it is generally believed, and accepted by Turks as well as Greeks, that 87 were killed, including a captain, 2 sergeants, and a corporal, and 47 wounded.

I must confess that the latter version seems to me much more probable, for it must be borne in mind that to Phermaki and his men there was not even an alternative between life and death. They had to die, and they naturally fought desperately and sold their lives dearly. The Chief, for instance, shot as he was in twenty-one places, seized a carbine, and killed five soldiers before his right arm was fractured by a ball. He then plunged into the river, and, with a revolver in the left hand, wounded a sergeant before being sabred to death.

It is said that in a secret inner pocket of his interior pocket several official documents were found. Among them there was a despatch addressed to him at Lamia by the "Ethniki Amina" or National Defence, the well known Greek Committee for insurrectionary purposes.

It was dated Piræus, April 1879, and contained instructions to proceed with his

band at once into Thessaly, and after having occupied certain specified positions in the Olympic district, to send an express to a certain specified place on the frontier, as the 1,500 (I suppose insurgents) are in readiness to start with their captains, and as money, arms, and ammunition are on the way by sea, and will reach him at his destination.

That some such document was found, received and read in Tricalla, I have sufficiently ascertained from several trustworthy sources. I have even been informed of this by a Greek gentleman, who, on the request of the authorities at Tricalla, read aloud to them the more important documents and explained their significance.

But what has become of the latter, as well as of the other papers which throw light on the nature of these bands, is at present a mystery.

The military and civil Governors of Thessaly, however, purpose shortly to send a Commission to Tricalla to investigate the matter. The impression which it produces in the meanwhile is, either they have been sold by the Turkish officials, or stolen by the Greek emissaries in Tricalla.

A number of contracts or certificates of engagement were also found on the insurgents. They were exchanged by the soldiers for money under the idea of their being Greek "caimés" or paper currency.

I have, moreover, been told that half-a-dozen Mylona and Gras rifles (both Greek regulation arms) were sold in Tricalla, as well as four blue uniforms of the Greek infantry, and a few bayonets, trumpets, and revolvers, bearing the Greek Government mark and number. Besides, the Christians who accompanied the Turkish troops are said to declare that many more of these and other military accoutrements were collected and sold by the soldiers for mere trifles to the villagers of those localities.

I should also state that I have been informed by trustworthy persons, that these bands of insurgents regularly paid for what they took, and that during their short stay in Thessaly they in no way molested any of the Christian or Mahommedan inhabitants.

Taking, therefore, all this and much more of what I have heard into consideration, I come to the conclusion that the bands were not those of brigands but insurgents, composed partly of Greek soldiers, and that they were probably sent to occupy different parts of the province, preparatory to another insurrection being eventually necessary, in order that the demands of Greece for the rectification of her frontier be fully and satisfactorily settled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 85.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 233.) *Constantinople, May 24, 1879.*

My Lord,

I THINK it right to call your Lordship's attention to the inclosed copy of the "Maritza," containing an article on the non-execution of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

On the third column of the same paper is a list of atrocities said to have been committed in the district of Bitolia.

I need scarcely point out to your Lordship that so long as no move is made in the direction of Article XXIII by the Turkish Government, a fruitful source of grievance will be left open, which may produce serious disorders and complications.

Some days ago Carathéodory Pasha informed me that the legal counsel of the Porte were engaged in making an adaptation of the Eastern Roumelian Statute, which would be submitted to the respective Medjliss of the districts to which the reforms would be applied.

Assim Pasha told me on Thursday evening that the counsel intended to reproduce almost textually our Statute, with the exception of certain Articles. He, however, seemed surprised at my saying that it would be necessary to submit the proposals thus prepared to local Commissions before they could be laid before the European Commission.

I am becoming daily more anxious at the delays of the Porte in this matter, the growing evil of which is plainly manifested in the article I now inclose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May 8, 1879.

Plovdiv, le 7 Mai, 1879 (v.s.)

UNE dépêche de Londres annonce que le Chancelier de l'Echiquier, répondant à une interpellation, a dit que le Gouvernement Anglais a souvent engagé la Sublime Porte à exécuter l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, et, récemment encore, il aurait renouvelé ses représentations à ce sujet.

Tous les Gouvernements, et surtout le Gouvernement Français, comme le prouve l'interpellation de M. le Baron de Ring dans la Commission Européenne, ont, nous aimons à le croire, déjà rappelé la Sublime Porte aux engagements contractés. Et cependant, nous avons encore tout récemment entendu Lord Salisbury déclarer que les Commissions spéciales qui doivent arrêter les Règlements prévus par l'Article XXIII ne sont même pas encore désignées. Il est donc évident que la Sublime Porte, selon son habitude, pourra, sous les prétextes les plus futiles, continuer à ne point s'occuper de l'amélioration du sort des malheureuses populations laissées sous son autorité directe, tant que les Grandes Puissances n'auront exercé une pression suffisamment énergique sur le Gouvernement Ottoman. En attendant, la situation de nos frères de la Macédoine devient de plus en plus intolérable; on les rançonne, on les pille, on les égorge, le plus souvent à l'instigation de l'autorité même qui est chargée de les protéger.

Nos fréquents appels aux sentiments d'humanité de l'Europe, tout en ne provoquant point de mesures d'une efficacité réelle, ne sont cependant pas restés inentendus.

Nous nous permettons donc d'en appeler encore une fois aux Grandes Puissances, dont l'intérêt est évidemment celui d'apaiser les esprits dans notre pays. Or, croient-elles, que la situation de la Macédoine n'a pas nécessairement son contre-coup chez nous? Croient-elles que nous pouvons rester impassibles devant les cris de douleur de nos frères? Croient-elles que nos populations puissent rassurer elles-mêmes sur l'avenir qui les attend, en voyant ce qui se passe en Macédoine au mépris du Traité de Berlin? La Commission Européenne, qui doit incessament revenir dans nos murs, se pénétrera-t-elle enfin de cette considération que sa mission humanitaire ne saurait être couronné de succès aussi longtemps que nos populations n'auront vu une existence tolérable assurée à leurs coreligionnaires d'au delà du Rhodope? L'attitude que les Grandes Puissances semble prendre dans cette question nous donne quelque espoir. Mais jusque-là notre journal continuera, au risque de fatiguer ses lecteurs, à signaler les méfaits que commettent les autorités et les particuliers Turcs en Macédoine.

A l'exposé de la triste situation du district de Tétovo, publié dans le numéro précédent, nous ajoutons aujourd'hui une liste des crimes qui ont si cruellement éprouvé, dans le courant de l'année, la population Bulgare d'autres districts de la Macédoine.

Dans cette liste, fait observer notre correspondant, il n'est fait mention ni des abus des autorités ni des méfaits commis sur la population Koutso-Valaque, ni des simples extorsions et rançons; en un mot, cette liste n'énumère que bien sommairement les actes les plus atroces dont a souffert la population Bulgare.

No. 86.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 234.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 27*, 1879.

ON our arrival the evening before last at Adrianople, we were met at the train by Khosrew Bey, brother of Réouf Pasha, with a carriage, a guard of honour, and an escort. Réouf Pasha sent excuses for not having come himself, as he was seriously unwell, but begged us to go and see him. As my German and Austrian colleagues were very much knocked up, and as the drive to Adrianople from the station takes nearly an hour, they declined the invitation; but as I had known Réouf Pasha some time, and was anxious to show him all the civility in my power, I accompanied his brother to the konak.

There were several points on which Réouf Pasha was very anxious. He said that in the frontier villages the Turks were being very badly treated, and their women insulted during domiciliary visits made by the Bulgarians on the pretence of searching for arms.

Large numbers of Bulgarian refugees were returning to the Vilayet of Adrianople from Eastern Roumelia. To these he gave every protection and security, not even allowing them to be deprived of buffaloes and other property illegally obtained. They evidently appreciated his policy, as others were coming in great numbers, and he sent special trains to bring them from Yamboli and other parts. But meanwhile there were at Adrianople 28,000 Mussulman refugees from Eastern Roumelia, who were not allowed to return. He had mentioned all these circumstances to General Stolipine, but in vain.

I replied that I would do all in my power by way of representation, but practically the function of the Commission was nearly expired, and the proper persons to undertake the cause of the people he mentioned was the new Governor-General.

Réouf Pasha, who looked seriously unwell, seemed most grateful for my coming; so much so that, hearing me order the carriage to take me to the Consul's house, where I only remained a few minutes, he followed me there on foot to return my visit at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 87.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 27*, 1879.

I ARRIVED here last night in the society of M. de Braunschweig and de Kallay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 88.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 236.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 27*, 1879.

I HAVE just returned from the railway, where I went to witness the arrival of Aleko Pasha.

Last night I received a telegram from Sir Henry Layard to the effect that, at the last moment, the Sultan had ordered his Excellency to wear a fez. This news also, it appears, reached General Stolipine; his Excellency was much disconcerted at the announcement, as it appears he and General Obroutcheff had promised the Bulgarians that the new Governor-General would not wear a fez. General Stolipine, therefore, sent M. Nekludoff early this morning to inform Aleko Pasha that he could not answer for the consequences if the fez were worn; and M. Nekludoff took a hat with him to offer to His Excellency.

The latter, however, went beyond the wishes of the Russians; for he desired one of his trunks to be opened, and took out of it a Bulgarian calpac, not the simple black lambskin generally worn by the Bulgarians, but one having a red crown, such as is used by the militia. In this he made his entry, wearing, however, a frock coat of the shape generally adoped by Turkish functionaries. On arriving at the station Aleko Pasha was greeted by deputations of the different nationalities, and the heads of the religious communities. The arrival of the train was celebrated by a band playing the Bulgarian hymn, which was also sung by the boys of the Bulgarian school. Aleko Pasha at once repaired to the Bulgarian church, where, standing with his wife under a bower of green branches and roses, he listened to an allocution pronounced by the Exarch. To this he replied in Greek, and I believe in suitable terms. Mr. Consul-General Michell will probably describe the details more at length to Sir H. Layard.

M. de Kallay, M. de Braunschweig, and myself went merely as spectators. Being the only Commissioners now at Philippopolis except Prince Tzerctelew, who was

present as Doyen of the Consular Body, we did not think ourselves constituted officially, and we received no intimation or invitation from General Stolipine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—It appears Aleko Pasha did cross the frontier in a fez, at other stations appeared without a head-dress, and assumed the calpac near this town after seeing M. Nekludoff.

H. D. W.

No. 89.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 237.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.*

I HEAR from a good source that there has been a remarkable conflict going on here, between the moderate and the advanced parties in the Bulgarian political organization.

These parties have now separated, the latter retaining the funds.

Prince Tzeretelew has endeavoured to promote the efficiency of the moderate party, while General Stolipine has temporized and partly encouraged the more advanced.

He declares himself to pursue this line with the view, if necessary, of terrorizing the Turks and their allies in Europe, while he believes he holds the agitators so firmly that he can handle them at any moment one way or the other as he thinks fit.

The arrival of Aleko Pasha will, I trust, tranquillize the mind of the population, and, followed as speedily as possible by the Russian evacuation, may restore to the province a state of quiet.

As an evidence of the confidence which is growing up here, I may instance the fact that, on the road between the town and the railway station, where on my first arrival in October there was only one house, building is now going on to a very considerable extent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—General Stolipine leaves to-morrow for Slivno. General Skobeleff has left that town for Bourgas.

H. D. W.

No. 90.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 238.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.*

I CALLED this afternoon with M. de Kallay on the Greek Metropolitan.

We found him very indignant at Aleko Pasha's fez, and at his having attended the service at the so-called Bulgarian cathedral.

There seems to be, however, a general contentment at the arrival of Aleko Pasha and the inauguration of the new Government.

I have seen several Bulgarians, of different shades and classes, who greeted me very civilly, and who declared to me their opinion that, although the national feeling still existed, the bulk of the people were anxious for repose and to give the new organization a fair trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 91.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 239.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.*

I AM happy to say that during the last few weeks the Direction of Finance has been progressing more favourably.

The chest of Slivno has been remitted to M. Schmidt, with money from other districts, and Aleko Pasha will find in the Treasury to begin with a sum of about 80,000*l.* To this will shortly be added the sheep tax, which is shortly due, and which will give, at a moderate estimate, a sum of about 40,000*l.*

I fear this year the revenue will not be very brilliant, many fields not having been sown. M. Schmidt calculates the dimes at least at 200,000*l.*

The evils of the Dondoukoff-Maréchal contract are not yet exhausted.

I informed your Lordship, in my despatch No. 99 of the 6th March, that a sum of £T. 56,000 had been repaid to M. Maréchal out of the 3,000,000 fr. paid by himself and his friends for the latter. This sum, however, represents only the deficiency in the cereals given to him at the price at which he acquired them. He is now suing Prince Dondoukoff and the Russian authorities for the profit he would have derived from the re-sale of the grains of which the £T. 56,000 were the cost price.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 92.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 433.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 24, 1879.*

MAJOR TROTTER, in his despatch to me of the 15th ultimo, copy of which was transmitted by him to your Lordship, having called my attention to the ill-treatment of Protestants in the Vilayet of Diarbeker by other Christian sects, and especially by the Orthodox Armenians, I directed Dragoman Mannich to bring the matter to the notice of the Armenian Patriarch, and to warn his Beatitude that he could not expect me to countenance acts of religious persecution committed either by Mussulmans or Christians, and to intercede with the Porte on behalf of the Armenians when they had cause for complaint if they were guilty of oppressing and persecuting their fellow-Christians. I have the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum from Mr. Mannich, reporting the steps that he had taken in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 92.

M. Mariniich to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Péra, le 23 Mai, 1879.*

SUIVANT les instructions de votre Excellence, je me suis rendu chez le Caïmacam du Patriarch Arménien démissionaire, pour me plaindre des mauvais traitements auxquels sont victimes les Protestants dans le district de Sert, ainsi que le rapporte M. le Major Trotter, dans sa dépêche, en date du 16 Avril dernier.

Je n'ai pas manqué de faire ressortir toutes les conséquences fâcheuses auxquelles peut facilement donner lieu une telle persécution. J'ai eu soin d'ajouter que si cet état de choses continuait, qu'il ne fallait pas s'attendre à voir votre Excellence intervenir désormais en faveur des Arméniens lorsque ceux-ci seraient l'objet de mauvais traitements comme ceux qu'ils font subir à leurs frères les Protestants; j'ai conclu en disant que votre Excellence était fermement persuadée que le Patriarcat, ne tolérant pas cette persécution religieuse, se serait empressé de transmettre des ordres à ses autorités religieuses dans le Vilayet de Diarbékir, afin que l'on mette un terme à ces faits regrettables.

Le Caïmacam du Patriarche Arménien s'est montré très-peiné d'apprendre le récit que je lui ai fait. Il m'a prié d'informer votre Excellence qu'il se fera un devoir de

transmettre par le courrier prochain les ordres les plus formels à ces autorités ecclésiastiques dans le Vilayet de Diarbékir pour que désormais les Arméniens ne se livrent plus à des actes répréhensibles qu'il considère comme contraire au Christianisme ainsi qu'à l'esprit d'humanité et de civilisation du siècle où nous vivons. Toutefois, comme les faits rapportés par le Major Trotter n'ont pas eu lieu dans les villes, mais se sont produits dans les campagnes par des individus sans éducation, il ne faudrait pas, m'a dit le Caïmacam du Patriarche, faire retomber l'odieux de ces actes isolés sur toute la nation Arménienne, qui désire vivre en parfaite harmonie avec les Protestants. Aussi, il prie instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien continuer comme par le passé à protéger et défendre les intérêts des Arméniens. Le Patriarcat de son côté ne manquera pas de donner les instructions nécessaires pour qu'à l'avenir de pareils faits ne se renouvellent plus. Le Caïmacam du Patriarche m'a fait remarquer que l'Evêque de Diarbékir s'était empressé, comme le dit du reste le Major Trotter, de recommander à ses ouailles d'éviter les conflits religieux avec les Protestants, conflits que dans l'état actuel de choses, a dit le Caïmacam, ne manqueraient pas de produire de funestes effets sur l'esprit des Mussulmans, qui se sentiraient autorisés à exercer aussi de leur côté des actes d'oppression et d'injustice envers les Chrétiens.

En même temps, j'ai informé le Caïmacam du Patriarche que la nommée Anna, qui avait été mariée précédemment à un Protestant, continuait, contrairement aux ordres catégoriques et péremptoires du Patriarcat, à vivre dans la maison de l'individu avec lequel l'Evêque du Diarbékir l'avait remariée illégalement.

Le Caïmacam du Patriarche m'a donné lecture du télégramme qu'il venait de recevoir de l'Evêque Philipos, dans laquelle il est dit que la susdite Anna avait été séparée de son second mari, Casandjian, et placée dans la maison de sa mère. Mais comme Casandjian, en dépit de la défense des autorités ecclésiastiques, allait de temps en temps la voir, l'Evêque Philipos informait le Patriarcat qu'il se proposait de recourir à l'intervention de l'autorité locale pour empêcher Casandjian de fréquenter la maison de sa belle-mère.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) HUGO MARINICH.

No. 93.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 436.)

Therapia, May 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside relative to the proceedings of the Aleppo Commission. I have given extracts from this despatch to the Porte, and am drawing its attention to the state of things described.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Marash, May 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to forward to your Excellency telegrams on the 8th, 9th, and 10th May; copies of the first two I have sent to the Consul at Aleppo for transmission by post, and I inclose a copy of the last.

The details contained in these telegrams will have brought to your Excellency's notice the very injudicious policy which the Imperial Commissioners are pursuing, but at the same time there is no doubt in my mind as to such a course having been forced upon them by orders from Constantinople.

As it seemed expedient to telegraph at some length, I have little to add on these matters.

As regards my statement in the telegram of the 9th May, as to stationing troops for the protection of Zeitoun rather in the environs and adjacent districts than in the town, the American missionaries, who have an intimate knowledge of the localities (whose opinions I subsequently asked), tell me that detachments so stationed—that is, near the defiles, &c.

—would be better able to act against any Zeitoun brigands or outlaws than if in the town itself.

The number of prisoners given as 139 is incorrect; it should be 153.

The Mixed Commission appointed to examine the charges against them consists of eight Christians and eight Mussulmans, local members, and two Mussulmans appointed by the Commission; it is under the presidency of the local "Naib," or Judge.

Although appointed in accordance with the advice of the Catholicos of Sis and an Armenian Notable, the choice of members, especially among the Mussulmans, does not seem to give satisfaction.

I am well informed as to the antecedents of most of the Notables of Marash, and regret that I have no voice in the nomination of this important Commission. Although I have been unable to exclude corrupt and objectionable members, I must hope that my representations will have warned the Commissioners. The actual result has been that the most upright Moslem by reputation has been removed from the Commission, and a Christian and Mussulman clique exists in it, whose interest it is to cover over past transactions, reputed to be very nefarious.

The Commissioners tell me they find, as was notorious, that the Tribunals here are corrupt and worthless.

It may not be amiss to mention that the traditional fanaticism of Marash is rather the result of the pernicious influence of a few Pashas, Beys, and Notables, than inherent in the people, and that the power of gradually dissipating it would be easily found by an energetic Governor.

The people, indeed, Mussulman and Christian, do not have their habitations, as in most Turkish towns, divided into quarters, but their houses are mixed, families of different creeds at times inhabiting the same court.

The spirit of intolerance and fanaticism is maintained by the Pashas and Beys spoken of, the descendants of old feudal Chiefs, and when an energetic Governor as Khalil Pasha, at the time of threatened outrages on the Christians during the late war, made them responsible, nothing of any sort took place.

The town has a magnificent supply of water; the plain in front of it is vast and capable of enormous agricultural improvement; a branch road or tramway to join that from Aleppo to Scanderoon would reach the Antioch plain without encountering any difficulty or crossing any but an extremely low watershed; it is altogether a wonderfully fine site for a city.

It is at present administered by the "Liva," or Brigadier-General of the troops, a weak, indolent, and incompetent man.

The feeling against Weissi Pasha, the suspended Governor, a fanatic of violent temper, and a man who is, I believe, very much to blame for all that has taken place in the matter of Zeitoun, is so strong that I have no hesitation in saying that, whether found to have been only acting under Kiamil Pasha's orders or not, it is most desirable that he should not return here.

Even if acquitted of all responsibility, I would still submit to your Excellency that he should not return here, but be sent elsewhere, and should you concur in this I trust I may be informed of it.

As I stated in my telegram of the 8th May, he was to have preceded or accompanied the Commission here. It appears that the Cazaskier, or chief religious functionary of the vilayet, had, for personal reasons, been pressing this most earnestly on the Turkish First Commissioner; I only heard of it at the moment of their departure, and at once wrote a protest. The Commissioners declined to enter into a correspondence on such a matter, and asked me to come and see them. As I had given my reasons both clearly and deferentially I declined to accede to this request, but was glad to find that they finally determined to leave Weissi Pasha at Aleppo.

I travelled here alone at the request of the Commissioners, to whom I defer in all such matters. It was perhaps natural that they should feel my presence might impair their dignity, and seem to be a check upon them, and I deemed that I was more likely to gain influence by waiting quietly than by any other course. Now, however, that they feel the restriction of action that seems likely to be imposed on them by their Government, and which they hope your Excellency's representations may succeed in removing, their sentiments appear changed, the more so as they find the good faith of their mission looked upon with doubt by the inhabitants—accustomed to chronic evasion and non-performance of promises—unless endorsed by me. I cannot say, however, if this disposition is likely to continue, as the most trivial acts and decisions are accompanied by a great amount of discussion, changing of opinion, intriguing, &c.

As regards Zeitoun affairs, all I hear and see only confirms the reports already fur-

nished to you by Consul Henderson as to their being nothing of the nature of a rebellion, nor, if I except the action of Babeek's band, of their having been such, while the state of consternation and terror of the inhabitants at the propect of the troops going there, unless accompanied by me, affords strong testimony in support of their allegations as to the violence and lawlessness that accompanied their last visit.

I am assured that hitherto not a piastre has been paid in return for the provisions that were requisitioned from the inhabitants.

The most striking evidence of the readiness of the Zeitounli to accept the new Governor, the Commission, &c., is furnished by the continuous arrival here of Notables and deputations from Zeitoun, which seems a conclusive proof were such needed, of perfect submission.

Convinced that such is the case, and as their disposition towards their legitimate rulers, &c., is so good, I am holding aloof from receiving any deputations, so that in case of a change of policy on the part of the Turkish authorities, they could not assert that the Zeitounli were really rebels whose submission was made in collusion with, and under the protection of, the English.

It is for the same reason that I am anxious not to go to Zeitoun one hour before the Commissioners, that no opportunity may be given for intriguing fanatics to allege that it was necessary for the rebellious Christians to be reassured and protected by the English before they would accept the Turkish authorities.

At the same time, such is the fear of the population of the troops, and of some act of Babeek's party producing a disorder that might endanger all, that I have strongly advised the Commissioners not to send troops there till they have power to grant a pardon. I have further pointed out to them that I must hold them responsible for any disturbance, and begged them that, if any such does occur, to take every precaution to distinguish from what quarter it comes, so that no act of Babeek's party, even if it has to be resented, should implicate thousands of innocent people.

It has further been arranged that to keep the troops separate as far as possible from the people, and to remove any likelihood of disturbance, their supplies shall be drawn from here and Elbistan, and that the movements of the troops shall be subordinated to the Civil Governor, Husni Effendi, a man who seems to have good sense, intelligence, and excellent intentions. He is rather sacrificing his dignity in accepting such a post, and it is only on my representations of the good reputation success in such a delicate undertaking is likely to establish for him, that he is willing to do so, as he was so much disgusted at the proposed action of sending soldiers, when he had been anxious to go alone, that he wished to resign.

It does seem indeed a most lamentable course that has been adopted, that after these poor Zeitounli, almost blockaded, have waited patiently for seven months, and without a Government or Administration, and at the same time subject to robberies, murders, and various outrages, and have yet remained tranquil, that after these robbers who have so complicated the situation, have so nobly kept, under circumstances of the greatest provocation, the promise they gave, a Commission should arrive without discretionary power to declare a pardon, that before it has released or even examined the prisoners, most of whom, it believes, almost wholly innocent, before it has investigated or redressed a single complaint, that when the population are ready to welcome it and its new Governor with demonstrative loyalty, its action should be the despatch of troops and the commencement of a barrack, acts that, however legitimate, cannot fail to be looked on by the Zeitounli, already once deceived by specious promises, as the counterpart of those that have already caused them so much misery and suffering.

This action and the whole treatment of the matter is so different from what I expected, that, until further instructed, I hardly feel justified in accompanying the Commissioners to Zeitoun; and I could certainly never counsel Babeek and others similarly situated to make personal submission and surrender till I had your instructions to do so, or the assurances of the Commissioners as to their course of action.

At the same time, the Zeitounli are in such trepidation concerning the arrival of the troops that I am inclined to accept, if necessary, the offer of Mr. Montgomery, American Missionary, to go unofficially, and with no mission from me, to reassure the people, with whom he has great personal influence, and to prevent a great exodus and flight to the mountains, which will otherwise take place. His presence would also exercise a moral effect on the Turks. If there seems any chance of a disturbance on the approach of the troops, who will take two days to march, intelligence would probably reach me in time for me to be on the spot, but for the reasons given above, except in case of disturbance, I deem it better not to go until I have received further instructions. As regards the ulterior settlement of Zeitoun affairs, from all I can hear from the Notables and see of them, it

would be hard to find any one man, Babeek, the brigand Chief, excepted, in whom they have confidence, the question of a Christian Kaimakam had therefore even if accepted in principle, better, I imagine, remain in abeyance for the present.

One of the great wishes of the people is to have the tax readjusted to the old form of a definitive tribute. All the Commissioners have power to do is to adjust the taxation under the existing laws in force throughout the Empire.

It is, however, as I have pointed out to them, within their functions to recommend another course should it seem desirable on investigation of the ancient Firmans and privileges, and of the actual condition of the place. Recently its very existence seems to have been threatened, and the dress of the Notables, unless purposely squalid and shabby, speaks volumes for the general destitution.

I may mention that I am informed that communities exist in the Giamour and Kozan Dagh which pay no taxes.

Another point many of the people seem to wish is that Zeitoun should not be included in the Aleppo vilayet. As regards the Armenian nation, it would undoubtedly seem, if there be no political objection, more natural that it should be included in the same district as Hadjin, and, from the topographical features of the country, I think it should rather belong to Cilicia than Syria.

The Commissioners assure me that, in inquiring into the Zeitoun matters, the investigation of the alleged illegal acts of Government functionaries shall not be omitted, and that they will not hesitate, if the evidence seem to warrant it, to bring them to trial.

I wish to avoid in this report giving your Excellency the impression that I have anything to say against the sentiments by which I believe the Commissioners to be animated, although Mazher Pasha does not impress me with the idea of being such an intelligent, energetic, or upright man as Ghalib Pasha. I believe him to be free from fanaticism, and convinced of the necessity of reform; a profound distrust of his own Government, and wish for its action to be coerced, seem among his prevailing sentiments. Of the high intelligence of the Christian Commissioner I need not speak to your Excellency, though it is to be regretted that he is not a very practical man, that he is given to visionary ideas, and that he is easily discouraged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, *Lieutenant, R.E.*

P.S.—I must mention with regret that whether from my unofficial position or other causes, the Mussulmans, in spite even of my advances, do not come to me as the Christians do. I am inclined to think the first reason is correct, and that it is from fear of their own functionaries and officials, and absence of belief in my influence or power with the Commission, even very possibly in accordance with instructions, as I do not find the same the case when travelling alone.

H. C.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 437.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 26, 1879.

I AVAILED myself of an opportunity this morning to call the attention of the Grand Vizier and of Carathéodory Pasha to the proceedings of Hussein Pasha, the Vali of Scutari, as described by Mr. Consul Kirby Green, given in his despatches to your Lordship and myself. I urged them to transfer him to some other post, warning them that his intrigues among the Albanians, which had already seriously compromised the Porte, would, if allowed to continue, lead to very grave results.

They both admitted that Hussein Pasha's conduct was likely to bring the Porte into difficulties, and that it was most desirable to remove him. But they said that, unfortunately he was supported by persons at the Palace, who persuaded the Sultan that he had great influence over the Albanians, by which he could secure their loyalty to His Majesty. Carathéodory Pasha had just received a copy from the telegraph office of a telegram, sent *en clair* to the Russian Ambassador, with an account of the refusal of some Turkish troops to permit the Boundary Commission to visit some spot when engaged in tracing the new Montenegrin frontier. His Excellency attributed this opposition to Hussein Pasha, who, he said, seemed determined to "spoil our business." I observed that such

being the case, and as the incident to which he had drawn my notice would most probably become the subject of remonstrance on the part of the Powers, I strongly advised him to insist upon the recall, at once, of Hussein Pasha, and to take measures to institute the fullest inquiries into the conduct of those who had thus forcibly interfered with the work of the Commission, with a view to their punishment. He would thus forestall the demands which would probably be addressed to the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 95.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 438. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 26, 1879.*

CONSUL SANDWITH having informed me some days ago that Photiades Pasha was very anxious to go to Constantinople in order to explain the position of affairs in Crete, and to endeavour to obtain an immediate settlement of the questions which had arisen between the Cretan Assembly and the Porte, and that it was very desirable that his Excellency should obtain the leave of absence for which he had applied, I spoke on the subject to the Grand Vizier and Carathéodory Pasha, and urged them strongly to lose no time in giving his Excellency the permission he had asked for to visit the capital. They both expressed their readiness to do so, and a telegram was immediately sent to Photiades Pasha, giving him the leave he required. His Excellency arrived here on Friday last, and called on me on the following day. He described to me the difficult position in which he had been placed on account of the delay on the part of the Porte in sending him answers and instructions with reference to certain measures voted by the Assembly, and requiring the Imperial sanction; as to the payment of half the receipts of the customs into the Treasury of the island; and as to the organization of the gendarmerie, which was impeded for want of funds, but was absolutely necessary for the maintenance of order. His Excellency stated that this delay was causing very serious dissatisfaction in the island, that the Assembly considered it as a proof that the Porte did not intend to carry out the Firman granting the new Organic Law, and that agents of the Revolutionary Committee in Athens were taking advantage of the discontent which prevailed to excite the Cretans to insurrection. His Excellency added that he was convinced that it was the intention of the Porte to act loyally in the matter, and that the delay arose from the usual procrastination in the transaction of business. He begged me to see Khaireddin and Carathéodory Pashas, and to impress upon them the great importance of settling the questions at issue, and of allowing him to return to his Government at once, with an engagement which would prove satisfactory to the Cretan Assembly.

I had subsequently an opportunity of seeing the Grand Vizier and Carathéodory Pasha, and I urged them very strongly to comply with Photiades Pasha's request, warning them of the danger, at a time when the Porte might be involved in difficulties with Greece, of giving Greek Agents an occasion of bringing about fresh troubles in Crete. I pointed out to them that the demands of the Cretan Assembly were reasonable; that they in no way affected the rights and prerogative of the Sultan, but were merely matters concerning local administration, and that it was absurd to raise difficulties about acceding to them, after the liberal concessions which had been already made by His Majesty to the island. They both promised me that they would do their utmost to bring about a satisfactory arrangement, so that Photiades Pasha might return at once to the island. I further requested Ghazi Osman Pasha, who called upon me with the Sultan's congratulations on the Queen's birthday shortly after Photiades Pasha had been with me, to tell His Majesty that I attached the greatest importance to the maintenance of tranquillity in Crete, which appeared to depend upon the acceptance by the Porte of the legitimate demands of the Cretan Assembly, and the suggestions of the Governor of the island, and that I earnestly hoped that His Majesty would give such orders as would ensure a settlement of the questions under discussion without loss of time.

Photiades Pasha, whom I have seen again to-day, tells me that he was invited to dine with the Sultan, who gave him a most gracious and encouraging reception, and kept him in conversation for a couple of hours. His Majesty showed the warmest interest in the island, and an anxious desire for the welfare and prosperity of its population.

His Excellency was further summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of Ministers, in which the Cretan question was discussed. He was invited to express, with complete

freedom, his views as to the measures he considered necessary in order to restore confidence in Crete, and to satisfy the Christian inhabitants. The Council decided upon acting on his advice, and agreeing to the demands of the Assembly. A "Mazbata" in this sense was drawn up for the Sultan, and it is to be hoped that His Majesty will, without delay, append his Imperial sanction to it.

Photiades Pasha professes to be well satisfied with the result of his visit to Constantinople, and I have urged him to return as soon as possible to his post. His Excellency hinted to me that domestic reasons (the grave illness of his wife) might lead him to renounce the Government of Crete. He asked my advice on the subject. I represented to him that it was most important that he should not take this step, at any rate until the Greek question was settled and the Organic Law was in full and satisfactory execution; that however good his reasons might be for resigning, the Cretan Christians would be induced to believe that he had either been recalled by the Porte in violation of the Constitution, or that he had been compelled to throw up his office on account of the opposition he was encountering at Constantinople; and that although his motives for retiring might be worthy of all sympathy and respect, it appeared to me that in the present critical state of affairs in the island, it was his duty to make every possible personal sacrifice to carry out the object for which he was selected as Governor of Crete—the introduction of the new Constitution framed for the welfare and prosperity of its Christian inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 96.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 439.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 26, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA called upon me yesterday morning to take leave of me before his departure for Philippopolis, and to inform me that General Stolipine had insisted that he should not enter Eastern Roumelia in a fez, but that he should wear the Bulgarian kalpak. His Excellency wished to have my advice on the latter subject. I told him that I could not offer him any advice, but that if he desired to know my opinion it was, that it was his duty to appear in the new province, which he was sent to govern as the Representative of the Sultan, in the Turkish uniform. His Excellency replied that such would no doubt be in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, and with an Article of the new Organic Law, which secured to everyone in Eastern Roumelia the right to wear his own national costume, but that he had been warned by General Stolipine that his appearance in a fez might lead to disorder, and might even endanger his personal safety. He thought it better, therefore, to comply with the General's advice, in order to avoid any difficulties being placed in his way on his first arrival at the seat of his Government.

In the afternoon the Sultan sent Munis Bey to speak to me on this subject. His Excellency said that His Majesty had learnt with great astonishment that Aleko Pasha, yielding to Russian representations, had decided upon putting aside the fez and wearing the Bulgarian dress; that if he did so it would be derogatory to His Majesty's dignity, would be, indeed, humiliating to him; that Aleko Pasha had allowed himself to be intimidated by the revolutionary party; and that if he gave way in this instance, it would be only the first step towards concessions gravely affecting His Majesty's sovereign rights as secured to him by the Treaty of Berlin. Munis Bey added that the Sultan had learnt with painful surprise, that on the withdrawal of the Russian flag from the konak, or government-house, at Philippopolis, the Bulgarian flag had been hoisted in its stead. This was a serious violation of the Treaty, and proved that it was necessary to put a stop at once to any attempt to infringe upon His Majesty's rights and prerogatives. The Sultan, therefore, intended to give orders to Aleko Pasha to wear his proper dress as His Majesty' Representative, which included the fez. Such was the dress of the Governors of the Lebanon and of Crete, of His Majesty's Representatives abroad, and of the Turkish Commissioners at Philippopolis. His Majesty did not, therefore, see why Aleko Pasha should appear in Eastern Roumelia, which was a Turkish province, as a Bulgarian, and not as a Turkish official. His Majesty, however, wished to have my advice before coming to a final decision.

I told Munis Bey that although the matter appeared to be a trifling one, it was really one of considerable importance, as involving a question of principle. I did not, therefore, like to give advice on the subject, although I entirely agreed in His Majesty's views with

respect to it, without first consulting Her Majesty's Government, which I would do at once if His Majesty desired it; but I earnestly hoped that there would be no further delay in the departure of Aleko Pasha for his post, for, in my opinion, his prolonged absence, and that of the Commission from Philippopolis, had encouraged the Bulgarians in their belief that they could still resist the restoration of the Turkish authority, and had led to such incidents as the hoisting of the Bulgarian flag. Munis Bey promised to communicate my answer to the Sultan.

His Majesty, on his Excellency's return, sent for Aleko Pasha, and informed him that it would be his duty to appear on entering Eastern Roumelia as His Majesty's Representative, and consequently to wear the Turkish costume. In this decision His Majesty was entirely supported by the Grand Vizier. As it was late at night before the Sultan had communicated his orders to Aleko Pasha, it was arranged that the latter, who was to have left early in the morning by the usual train, should be sent to Adrianople in a special train in the afternoon.

I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday the substance of what Aleko Pasha had said to me, and of the Sultan's communication. I ventured to express my opinion that this question, although it may appear trifling, is one of much importance, and that to give way upon it would only be to encourage the Bulgarian population of Eastern Roumelia to insist upon further concessions, tending to destroy the authority of the Sultan in the province, which it was the object of the Treaty of Berlin to re-establish. I think, therefore, that it was wise to resist the demand at once, especially as I fear that Aleko Pasha is a weak man, and likely to yield to any pressure that may be put upon him by the Russians.

This morning Carathéodory Pasha communicated the Sultan's decision to Prince Labanoff, and requested him to inform the Russian authorities of it, and to direct them to take measures to prevent any hostile demonstration on the part of the Bulgarians, if one were really to be apprehended, on the arrival of Aleko Pasha, and for removing the Bulgarian flag.

I repeated to Sir H. Drummond Wolff my second telegram to your Lordship on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S. *May* 27.—It appears from a telegram just received from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, that Aleko Pasha, after all, allowed himself to be frightened by General Stolipine, and presented himself in Eastern Roumelia wearing the Bulgarian kalpak, which he had ready in his luggage. I fear that this disobedience to the Sultan's orders will tend to indispose His Majesty still further towards Aleko Pasha, in whose loyalty he does not appear to have much confidence.

A. H. L.

No. 97.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 440.)
Therapia, May 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert relative to the question of the restitution of property stolen from Mussulmans during the Russian occupation.

I have, &c.
Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 18, 1879.

Sir,

THERE is reason to fear that Réouf Pasha's administration of the vilayet is less favourably viewed by a section of the Mussulman inhabitants of Adrianople than it is by the Christian communities, the former being of opinion that in his anxiety to please the latter in all things the Vali is neglectful of his own co-religionists' claims to consideration.

Thus, within the last few days, a misunderstanding has arisen between Réouf Pasha and certain Turkish landowners here on the delicate subject of the restitution of movable property plundered from them during the Russian occupation, and although after an interchange of explanations the latter for the most part now declare that no further ground of difference exists, it is more than probable that some of their number, who have from the first been adverse to Réouf Pasha, and who hold a more uncompromising view of the matter at issue, will avail themselves of the opportunity to complain to the Porte against the Vali, and to embarrass him in the discharge of his difficult duties.

Whilst the evacuation of the province by the Russians was yet in progress one of the landowners (who, as they now tell me, was therein the mouthpiece of the rest), called on me to ask whether, in my opinion, he would be justified in claiming from its present possessors certain property of his, such as cattle and personal effects, which had been carried off during the Russian occupation, and which he was in a position to identify.

I replied that in principle his right to restitution seemed to me unquestionable, so far as regarded, at all events, property abstracted subsequent to the date of the amnesty for all offences proclaimed by the Russians on the conclusion of peace. I expressed at the same time a decided opinion that my interlocutor, and all persons in his position, would do well, both in their own interest and in that of the Government, not to raise questions of the kind until this and the neighbouring province should be in a more settled condition.

My visitor seemed to acquiesce in this view, but he added that he had grounds for doubting whether the Vali shared my opinion as to the right of Mussulmans to claim back stolen property.

I rejoined that to my knowledge Réouf Pasha found himself for the moment, from motives of policy, obliged to endure many things that were distasteful to him, and I adjured my interlocutor (apparently with effect) not to add to the Vali's embarrassments by pressing the matter prematurely.

Réouf Pasha has since informed me that, besides the reasons that are in themselves obvious, he has had a special motive for desiring the question to remain in abeyance. This he explains as follows:—When the arrangements in connection with the evacuation of the province were being discussed, at the time of Prince Lubanoff's visit here, General Todleben demanded his (Réouf Pasha's) adhesion to nine conditions, or demands, which were set down in writing. One among these was the exemption of Christians from molestation or actions at law on account of any wrongs suffered by the Mussulmans during the Russian occupation. It was only on the Vali giving—verbally, as I understand—a solemn promise to observe this condition, that the Russians consented, and even then only with the greatest difficulty, to forego another pretension, namely, that of leaving at Adrianople a corps of observation, to consist of at least a brigade, as a material protection to the Christians.

About three weeks ago one of the principal landowners, named Husni Bey, brought a Vizirial order from Constantinople instructing the Vali to sanction the hearing before the proper Tribunals of the Bey's claims to the ownership of certain cattle which he alleged to exist at Ouzoun-Keupry. Réouf Pasha urged Husni Bey to let the matter stand over for a while, and the latter, after consulting with the other landowners, seemingly assented to that course. The Porte in the meanwhile having also admitted the force of the reasons adduced by Réouf Pasha in the same sense, the question was left in abeyance.

The Vali having subsequently heard that the landowners were holding meetings in a spirit hostile to himself, called them up and admonished them, as he himself has stated to me, in the severest terms. The landowners denied that they were animated by unfriendly feelings, and I am inclined to believe the emphatic assurances given me by some of their leading members that this is really the case as regards the great majority of their body.

In the meanwhile, however, one Hadji Shakir Bey, of Demotica, sent in to Réouf Pasha an application similar to that of Husni Bey, and he understood or professed to have understood that his Excellency assented to the immediate prosecution of his claim. As the Vali's reply was verbal and the applicant has since left for Demotica, it is impossible at present to know how the misunderstanding arose. Certain it is that when Husni Bey two days later addressed a petition to Réouf Pasha on that supposition, and allowed the fact to become public, the latter was greatly incensed. Assuming, rightly or wrongly, that Husni Bey had been put forward by the other landowners the Vali again called them up and repeated his admonitions in yet stronger terms. Upon the landowners renewing to his Excellency their former assurances and explaining the source of the misapprehension, Réouf Pasha charged them to call on the spiritual heads of the Christian

communities, who had taken alarm, and to give them satisfactory assurances of their conciliatory disposition. This they did in the most ample manner.

Husni Bey's petition was limited to the asking for a couple of gendarmes to accompany him to certain villages where he had reason to believe that stolen property of his existed, in order there to obtain satisfactory guarantees that it shall not be removed pending an action at law for its recovery. This simple request was distorted by public rumour, and it appears subsequently confirmed in that form by an unaccountable misapprehension on the part of the Greek vicar of the purport of the landowners' declarations, into a protest against the newly-established Tribunals, and a demand that their claims should be heard before the Cadi and decided by Koranic law.

In the meanwhile Husni Bey has left for Constantinople, and there is reason to believe that he will endeavour to obtain from the Grand Vizier a confirmation of his Highness's original order; for, although the landowners in general display exemplary resignation under the almost total ruin which has befallen them, Husni Bey, and I believe a few others now at Constantinople, are an exception to the rule. These are so exasperated by their losses, and the apparently secure enjoyment of their plunder accorded to those who have despoiled them that they will probably be blind to the injury which will accrue to their own interests as well as to the more general ones of the Government by a premature prosecution of their claims. It is to be hoped nevertheless that the Porte will see the propriety of refusing to countenance so impolitic a course.

On the other hand, whilst the inconvenience that would arise from its present repudiation by the Porte is manifest it is no less clearly to be regretted that a pledge of so flagrantly unfair a character should have been extorted from Réouf Pasha in this matter. The strict redemption of that pledge would give rise to great and legitimate heart-burnings, and even the Vali proposes to turn the difficulty by eventually allowing claims for stolen property to be examined by a committee of arbitrators, who would make a circuit through the province. His Excellency is of opinion that there should be no appeal from the decision of the arbitrators. He also holds that cognizance should be taken of offences against property only, and not of offences against the person.

The latter point is at present practically immaterial inasmuch as it may be doubted whether a single person guilty of such offences has remained in the province. For the same reason, however, and with a view to obviate the animosity which would be excited by the return of such persons among those whom they have injured, and by the mere enunciation of so unjust a principle, the advisability of proclaiming their immunity from prosecution seems to me at least questionable.

That the Russian Government would in the face of the world insist on the observance of the pledge exacted from Réouf Pasha appears hardly conceivable, since they would thereby virtually admit that it was not from inability but through unwillingness to accord justice that crimes against Mussulmans remained unchecked during their régime. On what other grounds, it might be fairly asked, could they require that the Ottoman authorities in taking over the Government of the province should condone their own lâches?

The above remarks apply of course only to matters which occur subsequently to the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano and the Proclamation of amnesty. Those matters, especially if limited to cases where property is traceable to, and now exists in, other hands, would prove to be of small importance relatively to those of the same kind that took place during the war, and the expediency of taking cognizance of which forms a different, and a more doubtful question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 98.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 443.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 29, 1879.

THE Porte is exceedingly angry with Aleko Pasha for having yielded to the demand of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia by wearing a Bulgarian kalpak instead of the fez, on entering into that province to assume its government. I am informed that he gave a distinct promise in writing to the Grand Vizier that he would not replace his fez by the Bulgarian headdress, his Highness holding himself responsible for the consequences.

Aleko Pasha does not appear to have acted straightforwardly in this business. He gave me to understand that, on the representations of General Stolipine that his personal safety might be endangered if he appeared on his arrival in Eastern Roumelia in Turkish costume, he had agreed to put aside the fez. He told the Sultan that he resisted with indignation the Russian attempt to make him abandon His Majesty's uniform, and to appear in any other character than that of His Majesty's Representative, and of a Turkish functionary. His Majesty attached great importance to this matter, and is much irritated against Aleko Pasha for his disobedience of the peremptory orders that he had received on the subject.

The Porte is convinced that the whole thing was prepared beforehand between Aleko Pasha and the Russians, and that the fear of a popular demonstration, and of danger to his person in case he appeared in a fez, was purposely put forward as an excuse to enable him to justify himself to the Sultan for not obeying his instructions. At any rate, he appears to have made his preparations for appearing in the Bulgarian costume, as his kalpak was ready at hand when he arrived on the frontier of Eastern Roumelia. Sir Henry Drummond Wolff informs me that he has heard, from a Russian source, that a promise had been given by General Obroutcheff and (?) General Stolipine to the Bulgarians, after consultation with Aleko Pasha, that he should abandon the fez. This is probably true.

If the question of the fez alone were at issue, it might not be considered of much importance; but taken in connection with other incidents, the Porte considers it as affording a proof of the intention of the Russians and the Bulgarians to consider Aleko Pasha as a Bulgarian, and not as a Turkish functionary. It learns that, although General Stolipine appears to have lowered, in consequence of superior orders, the Bulgarian flag which he had hoisted upon the Government House at Philippopolis, he took care to remove the pole also, so that it might not be replaced by the Turkish flag; that on reaching Philippopolis, instead of proceeding at once to the konak, as he ought to have done on assuming the government as the Representative of the Sultan, Aleko Pasha went, in the first instance, to the Bulgarian church; and that he affects to call himself "Prince Alexander Vogorides of Eastern Roumelia," instead of "Aleko Pasha," which is his proper title. His father, as your Lordship is aware, was for a time the Governor of Samos, and it is customary for the Governors of that island to style themselves Princes, but I believe that in no other instance has the title been claimed as hereditary, and in most cases is only borne whilst the Governor holds his post. For instance Photindes Bey, the last Governor, calls himself on his card, "ex-Prince of Samos."

I cannot but think that the Porte is justified in its fears; and if it is the intention of the Powers that, in pursuance of the XIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Eastern Roumelia should "remain under the direct political and military authority" of the Sultan, a stand should have been made at once against any attempt to infringe upon that authority. I fear that the weakness which has been shown in this instance, and the evident complicity between Aleko Pasha and the Russian authorities, will only encourage the Bulgarians to make further attempts to destroy the little authority that is left to the Sultan, and to convert the province into a purely Bulgarian principality. They have now been taught that they have only to threaten to make a demonstration, and to cause disturbances in order to have their own way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 99.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 444.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of the Imperial Decree appointing Aleko Pasha to the Governor-General of the province of Eastern Roumelia, and of the instructions given him to carry out the Organic Statute elaborated by the European Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Decree appointing Aleko Pasha Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

(Traduction.)

A mon Illustre Vézir Aleko Pacha, Grand Cordon du Medjidié, ancien Ambassadeur à Vienne, nommé Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Décret:

UN homme de haute capacité et d'intelligence étant exigé pour le poste de Gouverneur-Général de la Province de la Roumélie Orientale constituée conformément à l'Article XIII du Traité de Berlin, toi, mon Vézir, qui est doué des qualités nécessaires de fidélité et de droiture, et qui est au courant des affaires et des idées du jour, je confie à tes capacités et ton intelligence le poste de Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale pour un délai de cinq ans, par mon Décret Impérial en date du 21ème jour du mois Rébi-ul-Ahir, de cette année 1296, émané de mon Divan Impérial. Tu devras, d'après ton expérience des affaires et ton esprit éclairé, veiller à la bonne administration de la susdite province conformément aux Articles de la loi du pays; tu devras employer tous tes efforts pour rendre la tranquillité et le bien-être aux sujets de mon Empire et à toute la population en général; tu t'efforceras d'empêcher qu'il se produise aucun fait ou événement contraire à la loi ou à mes désirs impériaux; tu travailleras à confirmer et à augmenter la pleine confiance évidente que j'ai en toi, et tu communiqueras à ma Sublime Porte les questions que tu jugeras dignes d'être signalées.

Ecrit le 25 du mois de Djémazi-ul-Ewel, de l'année 1296.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Instructions to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

A mon Vézir Aleko Pacha, Grand Cordon du Medjidié, Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Décret:

LA Commission Internationale, instituée conformément à l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, a élaboré pour l'administration générale de la Roumélie Orientale une Loi Organique qui se trouve annexée a mon Décret Impérial, composée de quinze Chapitres et 495 Articles, ainsi que de treize Appendices, contenant 637 Articles Supplémentaires, que j'ai acceptée et sanctionnée.

Mon désir Impérial est que tous les Articles de cette loi soient exécutés, que les droits de mon Gouvernement soient sauvegardés, et que la tranquillité et le bien-être soient rétablis et consolidés dans toutes les classes de mes sujets Impériaux. Lorsque tu te seras rendu compte de la situation d'après la haute intelligence et la fidélité qui te caractérisent, tu feras savoir publiquement que ma volonté expresse est que les préceptes de la susdite loi soient strictement observés et exécutés. Ordre émané de mon Divan Impérial. Tu communiqueras partout, à tous les fonctionnaires, les habitants, et les sujets de mon Empire, ce Décret Impérial. Tu emploieras tous tes soins et tes efforts pour que la loi ci-dessus soit observée et exécutée dans toute son étendue, d'une façon continuelle et permanente. En même temps, tu veilleras rigoureusement à ce qu'il ne se produise aucun fait ou mouvement fâcheux et contraire à la loi.

Ecrit le 25 du mois de Djemazi-ul-Ewel, de l'année 1296.

No. 100.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 445. Most Confidential.)

Therapia, May 20, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ZICHY was received in audience last Sunday by the Sultan. It would appear from what his Excellency has told me, and from what I have learned from other sources, that his reception by His Majesty was markedly cold. The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador had been charged by the Emperor with very friendly messages to the Sultan, and had been directed to inform His Majesty that, in deference to his wish that the secret

Article of the Convention should be annulled, His Imperial Majesty had authorized Count Zichy to withdraw it. But the Ambassador was directed to add that the Emperor, being desirous of giving a proof of his wish to maintain and extend the intimate relations that had so long existed between the two Empires, and considering himself bound by his Royal word, would be ready at any time, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the secret Article, to come to the assistance of His Majesty in case of attack from without, as contemplated by the Article in question, whenever His Majesty might require such assistance. His Majesty only answered, after thanking the Emperor, that such would be in the interest of both countries, and then turned the conversation to indifferent and personal questions.

Count Zichy having informed the Sultan that, as was customary on the exchange of ratifications, the Emperor desired to confer upon the Grand Vizier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other high Turkish functionaries certain orders, and that it was expected that His Majesty would confer similar marks of distinction upon the Austrian Prime Minister and others who had taken part in the negotiations for the Convention, His Majesty curtly replied that he had no intention of doing so. In consequence, the offer of the Emperor to give the decorations in question has been dropped.

Count Zichy apprehends from his reception by the Sultan, and not, perhaps, without reason, that the intrigues in the Palace to produce misunderstandings between the Porte and Austria attributed to Russian Agency and influence, have not been, unfortunately, without success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 101.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 447.)

Therapia, May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship extracts from a very interesting private letter from Major Trotter, from Katerbul, near Diarbekir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Katerbul, May 10, 1879.

(Extract.)

YOU will have learnt from my telegram, if not from my former correspondence, how important I deem it that I should have a *locum tenens* here. It is admitted on all sides that the presence of a British Consul has proved beneficial, and I have no doubt that the presence of the Russian also will be productive of peace if not of goodwill. Of course I cannot yet tell what his instructions are, or what the future policy of Russia is to be in Armenia; but this I know, that the Russian officer has already given great offence to his would-be Armenian friends by his apparent want of appreciation of the civilities that some of them are anxious to shower upon him.

Bishop Philippos tried to organize an imposing procession and reception; the consequence has been that all the respectable people stayed away from it, and the deputation was confined to Philippos and his friends the cobblers and the carpenters, these consisting of two or three horsemen, surrounded by a rabble of foot, went to meet the Consul, and presented him with bread and salt, a proceeding which must have somewhat astonished him.

M. Yakimanski and I have exchanged visits; he appears to be a pleasant, well-informed man. He speaks Greek, French, Russian, a little Arabic, but no Turkish.

I received yesterday Mr. Currie's letter offering me, on the part of Lord Salisbury, the appointment of Consul of Kurdistan, for a period of two years, or more if I wished it, to reside part of the year at Diarbekir and part at Erzeroum, with a Military Vice-Consul under my orders. He also told me that, as far as Consular and political duties, I should be immediately under the Ambassador, and independent of Colonel Wilson, the new Consul-General, except as regards matters purely military. I have accepted,

by telegraph, stating, however, that I should prefer the appointment being for two years; this gives both sides to the contract an opportunity for reconsidering their position after a reasonable time; but, if the fates befriend me, I of course intend to stick to the country now that I am here. The India Office has consented to lend me for as long as the Foreign Office requires me, but the question of deduction from salary for pensions has been referred to the Governor-General of India.

I hope to find on arrival at Erzeroum precise instructions I am to occupy in the Erzeroum Committee. I also hope that the members of the Commission have been specially instructed to treat me with all the consideration due to my position. Every one speaks well of Yussuf Pasha, so that it is likely that my being attached to the Commission will be productive of good. Serkis Effendi is also well spoken of, though he is believed to be a little too much of a Turk.

Abdin Effendi, who is to be one of the members of the Diarbekir Commission, is also well spoken of.

But of the others, Mazhar Pasha, Chief of the Aleppo Commission, and of Kiazim Pasha, who it is said is to be designated as Chief of the Diarbekir lot, I can hear no good, and of the latter, I know personally a good deal that is bad, which it is my duty to tell you.

I have already reported, confidentially and officially, that Kiazim Pasha, who originally came to this country attached to Izzet Pasha's Commission, for the late Turkish revolt, is a brother-in-law of the Sultan. He communicates nightly with the Sultan independently of the Ministers, and is presumably much in his confidence.

I have reported him a few weeks ago, how both he and the Vali Izzet Pasha were disgracefully drunk at a large party, and I have now to add that within the last few days statements have been made to me of a nature almost amounting to proof, that both Izzet and Kiazim took bribes largely while employed in Kurdistan, after the suppression of Bedr Khan's revolt. The infamous Hamid Agha has paid 300*l.*, but the two Pashas have quarrelled over the booty, each one considering that he is entitled to the lion's share. I hear this from perfectly independent sources. I also reported officially the nomination as Caïmakam of Dejezreh of Saïd Effendi, well known to be a terribly extortionate rogue. I have now learnt that in consideration of his support in obtaining that appointment, Kiazim Pasha received from Saïd Effendi 200*l.* odd, being the amount of one year's salary. I also hear that within the last few days both Izzet and Kiazim Pasha have sent considerable sums in caïmé to Dejezreh, for the purpose of having it converted into good money. I also learn that Tello, another noted Turkish Aga, has, by the payment of 300*l.*, obtained a promise of release from confinement here. In fact, I have learnt more than enough to know that as long as Izzet and Kiazim Pasha remain in authority here, any Commission with which they may be connected will probably do infinitely more harm than good to the country.

A heika has been received from Mardin, stating that the Mutessarif Khwiship Bey (one of the exiles from Constantinople) has, during the course of a recent tour in his province, plundered the people to the extent of thirty-six horses and 2,500*l.* in gold, which latter amount he has shared between him and the members of his Medjliss. I was speaking yesterday to the Cadi, and he evidently believed the truth of the story. He told me that both Governor and Medjliss were assured that the matter would probably have to be referred to Constantinople, where the inquiry would very likely take place.

You know from my despatches something of the state of the Mount Mardin Sandjak. Reports also reach me that Sert Sandjak is in a state of great disorder. I have, however, great faith in Saïd Pasha, the Governor there; but altogether the state of affairs is most unsatisfactory. I have reported by telegraph that there have been three fights recently on the borders of the desert—Kurds and Kurds, Kurds Arabs and Arab-Kurds, and Kurds and Arabs—and between different sets of people; but from ten to fifteen men were killed in each encounter, at least, I learn. Three companies of soldiers have been sent from Malatra to Veran-Sher, and some troops were sent from here to Beyreh, which is in the neighbourhood of two of the battle-fields.

Rain is holding off, and prices running up. A friend of mine told me yesterday that he had that day sold 200 kilog. of wheat at 200 fr. per kilog., five times the price at the same time last year, to the Arabs in the Olfa direction, where prices are even higher.

I have now written so often urging the appointment of Consular officers, that it is unnecessary to say anything more on the subject. I accept the one Vice-Consul, Military, promised, with thanks. I hope he will not be long in making his appearance, and that he will be followed by many more. The Russians have a Consul-General and

Chancelier at Erzeroum, a Consul at Diarbekir, or Vice-Consul at Van on his way there.

P.S.—I fully expect that my departure from Diarbekir will be the signal for the release of half the scoundrelly Aghas now in arrest and confinement, at all events of that portion of them that can afford to pay well.

No. 102.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 449.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 30, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Philippopolis, Adrianople, Varna, and Rustchuk, reporting upon matters of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.*

I BEG to report that Osman Bey, the commutation of whose sentence has been obtained by Her Majesty's Government, was this day sent, under escort, by rail, beyond the frontiers of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.*

GENERAL STOLIPINE stated to me yesterday afternoon that he was making preparations for the complete evacuation of the province by the $\frac{1}{15}$th July next, and that he even hoped to effect it earlier.

The Archangelogorod infantry regiment, stationed here, is under orders to leave in about ten days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.*

IT is stated, in the inclosed extract from the "Maritza," that, since his return from Constantinople, General Stolipine has spoken of Aleko Pasha as "a patriot animated by the best sentiments towards the Bulgarians;" but, in a conversation with me, his Excellency did not express a very favourable opinion of the mental qualities of his successor, whom he also characterized as being very full of his own importance.

It is stated, in the Bulgarian portion of the "Maritza," on the authority of General Stolipine, that "Prince Alexander Vogorides" intends to wear the uniform

of the provincial militia; and that he has three Bulgarians in view for the posts of Directors of Internal Affairs, Justice, and Education.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 102.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May $\frac{8}{20}$, 1879.

SON Excellence, le Général Stolipine, est rentré hier de Constantinople dans notre ville. Tout le corps des officiers, les autorités civiles, et une foule compacte de la population l'attendaient à la gare; un détachement Bulgare, musique en tête, formait la haie. Son Excellence, après avoir passé le détachement en revue, réunit les officiers et les autorités autour de lui, pour leur donner quelques éclaircissements sur la situation. Le Général Stolipine s'est exprimé dans les termes les plus élogieux sur le compte de son successeur, le Prince Alexandre Bogoridi. "C'est," dit son Excellence, "un patriote animé des meilleurs sentiments pour les Bulgares." L'assistance accueillit ces renseignements avec des marques de vive satisfaction.

Inclosure 5 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 19, 1879.

Sir,

A REPORT having reached me to the effect that a considerable number of peasants had flocked yesterday to this town at the instigation, principally, of the Bulgarian Archbishop, for the purpose of making a demonstration against the pacific attitude assumed by a large majority of the National Committee of the Eagle Society, I called upon the Exarch, and elicited from his Eminence that a deputation of 40 persons out of a body of 400 peasants, village priests, and schoolmasters, had in reality waited upon him yesterday, for the purpose above-mentioned.

The Exarch, however, assured me that he had impressed the deputation with the error of their ways in organizing a demonstration, and also with the falsity of the rumours by which they had been beguiled.

The peasants had been told that the Turks intended very soon to send garrisons into this province, to take away the arms which had been distributed in the villages, and to suppress the military exercises of the rural gymnastic societies.

I, therefore, thought it my duty to point out again to the Exarch, that while neither the Powers of Europe nor the Ottoman Porte would be alarmed by such demonstrations, or induced by such means to deviate in the slightest degree from the course which had been resolved upon with respect to this province, it was, nevertheless, much to be regretted that agitators should be permitted to deceive the Bulgarian peasantry into a belief that they would be harshly and unjustly treated after the departure of the Russian troops, and also that they could redress their imaginary wrongs by resorting to Philippopolis in mobs.

The Exarch replied that he regretted it deeply, and that no one could be more anxious than himself to instil into the people feelings of security in their rights, of gratitude for what had been done for them by the Great Powers, and of cheerful hopefulness in the future of their country. He had at first thought of declining to receive the deputation, but had yielded in the hope that his arguments and assurances would prevail over those which had been employed by the agitators, who formed the small and humiliating minority of the National Committee.

He added that he considered the demonstration to be the last convulsions of an expiring body.

I then told the Exarch that I had good reason to believe that a certain exalted personage belonging to the Bulgarian hierarchy was connected with the demonstration in question, and that such a fact would certainly be known to the Ambassador at Constantinople, and produce a very painful and unfavourable impression. By opposing no denial, the Prelate allowed me to retain the belief I had thus expressed.

He acknowledged, indeed, that the personage in question had been active in his opposition to the settlement made by the Treaty of Berlin, but he thought at the same

time that he was at present very moderate in his views. However, after some further conversation, the Exarch gave me to understand that I might do some good by speaking to his Metropolitan, who, I had also been informed, had yesterday convoked a meeting of the National Committee, and endeavoured to obtain from it a reversal of its pacific decisions.

I, therefore, went to the Archbishop, and repeated in still stronger terms what I had said to the Exarch. Taxing him openly, but in discreet and friendly terms, with a participation in yesterday's demonstration, I pointed out all the consequences of training unlettered peasants in a disrespect for law and order, without the observance of which no country could be properly governed, or become happy and prosperous.

I drew his attention to the lamentable results produced in Russia by secret societies, the ramifications of which were probably operating in this country, and I asked him if he would like to see his flock converted by red Republican agitators into atheists and recusants of every principle, on which the rest of European society was established?

The Archbishop referred me to his Encyclical letter (which, however, the Exarch told me had been suggested by himself), and he endeavoured to convince me that, having an equal abhorrence of lawlessness and disorder, he was incapable of inciting the Bulgarian peasantry to factious opposition to the will of Europe, the good and earnest intentions of which he profusely acknowledged, while reverting very frequently to the impossibility of controlling popular passions in the event of the Turks exercising their right to maintain garrisons in this province.

One of the Bulgarian notables of this town entered the room towards the close of my interview, and assisted me in impressing on the Archbishop the impotency and impolicy of any agitation directed against the strict execution of the stipulations under which Eastern Roumelia has been constituted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.

Sir,

M. ECONOMOFF, who had been designated by General Stolipine for the office of Governor of Philippopolis, has been appointed in a similar capacity to Slivno. It is alleged that M. Economoff declined the former post on account of his ignorance of the modern European languages.

His successor at Philippopolis is, I am informed, M. Grékoff, a Bulgarian, born in Bessarabia.

He has studied law in France, and is reputed to be a good linguist and a man of ability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.

Sir,

GENERAL STOLIPINE stated to me yesterday that he was making preparations for the complete evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the $\frac{15}{27}$th July next, and that he even hoped to effect it earlier.

The Archangelogorod infantry regiment stationed here is under orders to leave in about eight days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 8 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.

Sir,

IN the inclosed extract from the "Maritza" of this date the demonstration which forms the subject of my despatch of this date is spoken of as being of no importance, and produced by agitators with few scruples.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 9 in No. 102.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May $\frac{8}{20}$, 1879.

QUELQUES manifestants sans importance, égarés par des agitateurs peu scrupuleux, se sont présentés chez sa Béatitude l'Exarque et chez Mgr. Panarète, et à la rédaction de la "Maritza," pour protester contre la politique de conciliation suivie par nos classes dirigeantes. Nos chefs politiques ont réussi à persuader à ces gens qu'ils étaient engagés dans une mauvaise voie pouvant amener de graves complications sur notre pays.

Inclosure 10 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.

Sir,

GENERAL STOLYPINE has told me that he intends to withdraw to Slivno in about eight days, leaving General Hübsch to hand over the administration to Aleko Pasha.

The Chief of his Chancery, M. Nekludoff, will remain behind, in order to assist in such transfer.

The Governor-General started this morning for Hasskeui, where he is to meet General Obrutcheff. His Excellency returns early to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 11 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a leading article which has this day appeared in the "Maritza," appealing to the Great Powers on behalf of the Bulgarians of Macedonia, whose sufferings are recorded in a list appended to that article.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 12 in No. 102.

Extract from the "Maritza" of May $\frac{5}{17}$, 1879.

Plovdiv, le 7 Mai, v.s.

UNE dépêche de Londres annonce que le Chancelier de l'Echiquier, répondant à une interpellation, a dit que le Gouvernement Anglais a souvent engagé la Sublime Porte à exécuter l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin et, récemment encore, il aurait renouvelé ses représentations à ce sujet.

Tous les Gouvernements, et surtout le Gouvernement Français, comme le prouve

l'interpellation de M. le Baron de Ring dans la Commission Européenne, ont, nous aimons à le croire, déjà rappelé la Sublime Porte aux engagements contractés. Et cependant, nous avons encore tout récemment entendu Lord Salisbury déclarer que les Commissions Spéciales qui doivent arrêter les règlements par l'Article XXIII ne sont même pas encore désignées. Il est donc évident que la Sublime Porte, selon son habitude, pourra, sous les prétextes les plus futiles, continuer à ne point s'occuper de l'amélioration du sort des malheureuses populations laissées sous son autorité directe, tant que les Grandes Puissances n'auront exercé une pression suffisamment énergique sur le Gouvernement Ottoman. En attendant, la situation de nos frères de la Macédoine devient de plus en plus intolérable; on les rançonne, on les pille, on les égorge, le plus souvent à l'instigation de l'autorité même qui est chargée de les protéger.

Nos fréquents appels aux sentiments d'humanité de l'Europe, tout en ne provoquant point de mesures d'une efficacité réelle, ne sont cependant pas restés inentendus.

Nous nous permettons donc d'en appeler encore une fois aux Grandes Puissances, dont l'intérêt est évidemment celui d'apaiser les esprits dans notre pays. Or, croient-elles que la situation de la Macédoine n'a pas nécessairement son contre-coup chez nous? Croient-elles que nous pouvons rester impassibles devant les cris de douleur de nos frères? Croient-elles que nos populations puissent se rassurer elles-mêmes sur l'avenir qui les attend, en voyant ce qui se passe en Macédoine au mépris du Traité de Berlin? La Commission Européenne, qui doit incessamment revenir dans nos murs, se pénétrera-t-elle enfin de cette considération que sa mission humanitaire ne saurait être couronnée de succès aussi longtemps que nos populations n'auront vu une existence tolérable assurée à leurs coreligionnaires d'au delà du Rhodope? L'attitude que les Grandes Puissances semble prendre dans cette question nous donne quelque espoir. Mais jusque-là notre journal continuera, au risque de fatiguer ses lecteurs, à signaler les méfaits que commettent les autorités et les particuliers Turcs en Macédoine.

A l'exposé de la triste situation du district de Tétovo, publié dans le numéro précédent, nous ajoutons aujourd'hui une liste des crimes qui ont si cruellement éprouvé, dans le courant de l'année, la population Bulgare d'autres districts de la Macédoine.

Dans cette liste, fait observer notre correspondant, il n'est fait mention ni des abus des autorités ni des méfaits commis sur la population Koutso-Valaque, ni des simples extorsions et rançons; en un mot, cette liste n'énumère que bien sommairement les actes les plus atroces dont a souffert la population Bulgare.

Inclosure 13 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 21, 1879.

Sir,

THE Russian Governor-General to-day hoisted the Bulgarian flag in the place of the Russian colours, which have hitherto flouted over the Government House in this town.

The colours of the Bulgarian flag are white, green, and red stripes superimposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 14 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 22, 1879.

Sir,

I CALLED at the konak this afternoon, and found General Stolipine, General Obrutcheff, and Colonel Schejeleff in conference on the Vitalis incident, and expecting the arrival of the Exarch and the Bulgarian Archbishop at the head of some Bulgarian notables, who had been sent for by the Governor-General.

General Stolipine informed me that he had brought General Obrutcheff back to Philippopolis for the purpose of calming the agitation, respecting which I had come to speak to his Excellency.

A general conversation then ensued on the subject of the agitation in question, and on that of the proceedings of General Vitalis at Philippopolis.

The action taken yesterday at the Bulgarian school was condemned by the two Generals, and they assured me that the Bulgarians would be advised to suppress the protest which they had drawn up and signed in considerable numbers.

At the same time, they were unanimous in blaming General Vitalis for engaging another French adventurer, M. Dumanoir, as Chief of his Staff. They thought it impossible for two such officers, ignorant as they also were of the Bulgarian language, not only to obtain influence and popularity, but even to direct and control, in a satisfactory manner, a service on which would greatly depend the maintenance of order and tranquillity in this province after its evacuation by the Russian troops.

General Vitalis had already exhibited a want of tact by promising commissions in supersession of officers at present serving in the militia, and General Stolipine declared to me that he would take care to avoid any responsibility for the consequences which would inevitably result from such conduct on the part of General Vitalis. In reply to my question, the Governor-General said that the officers of the militia who had announced their intention to resign *en masse* had been induced to reconsider their decision, and I have heard from another source that the officers of Russian origin have been threatened with dismissal from the Imperial army in the event of their joining in a general resignation.

In discussing this incident, I found myself able to defend General Vitalis against the animadversions of General Obrutcheff and General Stolipine. I confined myself to expressing the opinion that, since General Vitalis had, through the influence principally of the French Government, been appointed to the command of the militia and gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia, it was necessary to make the best of that appointment, and more particularly to repress all demonstrations directed against him by a small body of agitators, who were endeavouring, by such means, to keep up an excitement for wider ends.

The correctness of this view was readily admitted, and the Generals also seemed to agree that it would be dangerous to place alongside of General Vitalis a Bulgarian or Russian officer animated by a political idea.

They said they had no military candidate to propose, but that a civilian might be attached to General Vitalis as Chief of his Staff.

I have since learnt that the civilian in question is probably M. Gritzenko, an employé in the Governor-General's Chancellerie.

On leaving the konak, I met the Bulgarian prelates and notables. General Vitalis, who accompanied them, has since stated that General Obrutcheff told the Bulgarian representatives that the Tzar had approved of the Sultan's choice, and that it was the Tzar's will and pleasure to maintain General Vitalis in the position to which he had been named.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 15 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 23, 1879.

Sir,

I AM informed that a number of the Bulgarian and Greek peasantry who emigrated from the Province of Adrianople on the withdrawal of the Russian troops, desiring to return to their homes, lately sent a deputation to Raouf Pasha to inquire whether they might do so without fear of molestation.

Receiving an affirmative reply, several hundreds of these peasants (for the most part Bulgarians) prepared to start from the district of Yamboli a few days ago.

The Bulgarian and Russian authorities of Yamboli, on hearing of this movement, tried, by a profusion of promises, to prevent it. The refugees, however, persisted in their intention of returning to their native villages in Turkish territory; and they had actually got into a special train sent up by Raouf Pasha to convey them, when the Russian Commandant of the railway station at Yamboli ordered them to get out, and caused one or two of the leading men amongst them to be arrested. The station-master telegraphed the fact to Adrianople, and a telegraphic correspondence ensued between the Turkish and Russian authorities, which finally resulted, on Tuesday, the 19th instant, in the Bulgarian refugees being allowed to proceed to Adrianople.

It appears that these unfortunate people found their condition in Eastern Roumelia far from being the happy one which had been promised them at the time of their emigration. They had been promised lands, houses, cattle, and implements; and, with the exception of the first, none of these things had been given to them.

The remaining Christian refugees in Eastern Roumelia are reported to be anxious to follow the example of those who have just returned to their homes in the Province of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 16 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 23, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to the telegram from St. Petersburgh published in the Constantinople papers of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that I have been unable to obtain any confirmation of the statement which that telegram conveys, namely, that General Obrutcheff had suppressed the gymnastic societies of Tatar-Bazardjik, Carlovo, Kalofer, and Kisanlik.

I am, indeed, credibly informed that, on the contrary, the drilling of the Bulgarian peasantry continues as actively as ever throughout this province.

In this town, for instance, the gymnasts continue to be drilled daily, and a couple of days ago ten cartloads of ammunition for rifles were issued from the Government stores, and taken away by agents of the "Eagle" Gymnastic Society for distribution in the Bulgarian suburb of Karshi-Yaka.

General Vitalis states that he was asked by the Bulgarian Archbishop and notables, on the 22nd instant, in the presence of General Stolipine, whether he intended to disarm the members of the gymnastic society.

His alleged reply was that he would certainly not consider it necessary to take away the "broomsticks" with which the gymnasts had been supplied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 17 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 23, 1879.

Sir,

THE festival of Cyril and Methodius, the patron saints of the Bulgarians, was celebrated to-day with great pomp.

General Stolipine and his Staff, in full uniform, proceeded in the morning to the Bulgarian church, where a Te Deum was held by the Exarch, assisted by the Bulgarian clergy. Russian and Bulgarian troops lined the way from the konak to the Bulgarian church.

After the Te Deum, the Bulgarian prelates and clergy, followed by General Stolipine and his Staff, proceeded to a house on the banks of the Maritza, which has been bought by General Stolipine, and presented by him to the Bulgarians for an orphanage.

The house was blessed and asperged with holy water by the Exarch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 18 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 23, 1879.

Sir,

I AM confidentially informed that General Stolipine has eliminated from the Roumelian militia several Polish and other officers, supposed to be lukewarm in the

Panslavist cause; and that the remaining Bulgarian and Russian officers of the force have taken an oath amongst themselves to thwart and resist the authority of General Vitalis in every possible way, and to treat all foreigners who may be introduced into the militia in such a manner as to compel them to resign their Commissions.

General Stolipine is (as reported to me by the same informant) exulting over the perplexities and difficulties which he has prepared for the Turkish Governor-General and the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 19 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May* 25, 1879.

BY an Order of the Day of the 13th/25th instant, of which a translation is inclosed, General Stolipine has made arrangements for the complete evacuation of this province by the end of July next (n. s.).

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 20 in No. 102.

Order of the Day.

(Translation.) *Philippopolis, May* 11/23, 1879.

1. THE staff of the 4th Army Corps to be moved from Slivno to Bourgas, and the staff of the 9th Army Corps from Philippopolis to Slivno.

2. The infantry to be at Slivno by the middle of May (o. s.). The Archangelogorod regiment to proceed on the 13/25th instant to Slivno by rail as far as Kermanli, and to leave one battalion and the regimental staff at Slivno. The second battalion to proceed by rail to Yamboli. The third battalion to be left at Tirnovo-Semenly.

3. The remaining general concentration of the 5th infantry division at Bourgas in July next to be effected in the following order, namely :—

(*a.*) The 20th Galiez regiment to leave Philippopolis by rail for Yamboli on the 5/17th July.

(*b.*) The 19th Kostroma regiment to take the same route on the 6/18th July.

(*c.*) The 18th Vologda regiment to proceed from Tirnovo-Semenly to Yamboli by rail on the 7/19th July.

(*d.*) The 1st battalion of the 17th Archangelogorod regiment to proceed from Tirnovo-Semenly by rail to Yamboli on the 8/20th July.

(*e.*) The 17th Archangelogorod regiment to march from Yamboli to Slivno on the 22/3rd July.

4. The several regiments of the 5th infantry division to march to Bourgas or Kayali on the following dates :—

20th Galiez regiment to Bourgas on the 14/26th July;
19th Kostroma regiment to Kayali on the 15/27th July;
18th Vologda regiment to Kayali on the 16/28th July;
17th Archangelogorod regiment to Kayali on the 17/29th July.

5. This latter regiment to proceed from Kayali to Bourgas, together with the artillery of the 5th infantry division, according to arrangements to be made by the General in command of the 5th Division, and by agreement with the Commandant of Bourgas, with a view to prevent unnecessary collusion of troops at the point of embarkation.

6. The troops are to bivouac on their march. Receipts are to be taken on the march, acknowledging that the local population has no claims on the military authorities in respect to the passage of the troops.

7. The staff of General Stolipine's corps to leave on the 13/25th May for Slivno, taking the railway to Kermanly station. It is to proceed from Slivno to Bourgas towards the middle of July (end of July, n. s.), unless ordered to proceed earlier.

The military gendarmerie and the 9th Regiment of Don Cossacks to proceed with that staff.

8. The commissariat and artillery to remain at Philippopolis until the 1st/13th June.

9. The staff of the 5th Infantry Division to leave Philippopolis with the 19th Kostroma Regiment on the 6/18th July.

10. The Generals of Division to make the necessary arrangements for carrying the foregoing orders into execution.

(Signed) STOLIPINE.

Inclosure 21 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, May* 26, 1879.

GENERAL STOLIPINE has kindly communicated to me the inclosed copy of a letter which he has addressed to Aleko Pasha, and which will be delivered to the latter on the frontier of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 22 in No. 102.

General Stolipine to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Philippopoli, le* 13/25 *Mai*, 1879.

LE porteur de la présente, M. Gritzenko, employé Russe, attaché à ma personne, est chargé par moi de complimenter votre Excellence à son entrée en Roumélie Orientale.

M. Gritzenko est également chargé de vous présenter une députation des habitants du pays, qui vient vous offrir les sincères félicitations et l'expression des vœux que la population forme pour la pleine et entière réussite de la grande mission confiée à votre Excellence.

Cette députation est composée de M. Raïnoff, remplissant les fonctions de Préfet du district de Philippopoli, d'un officier de la milice locale, de M. Petraki Arzad-ali, *ad intérim* Bailli du canton de Philippopoli, et des représentants notables des Bulgares, Grecs et Turcs, habitants de la ville.

A votre arrivée à Philippopoli vous serez complimenté à la gare par les Métropolitains Bulgare et Grec, les Evêques Catholique et Arménien, le Mufti, le Rabbin, par une garde d'honneur, par le Maître de Police, et le Commandant de la Place, et par le Conseil Municipal, avec son Président, M. Peyeff, à la tête.

Mgr. l'Exarque attend votre Excellence à la Cathédrale Bulgare, désirant, ainsi que toute la population, voir les premiers pas du Gouverneur-Général Chrétien dirigés vers l'Eglise.

A l'arrivée de votre Excellence au konak, où votre logement est préparé, l'ex-Gouverneur de Philippopoli, Baron Hübsch-Grossthal, aura l'honneur de vous présenter les fonctionnaires de l'Administration Locale.

C'est au konak aussi que je me réserve le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue, et de remettre entre vos mains les pouvoirs dont j'étais revêtu jusqu'à présent.

Je suis heureux, mon Prince, de pouvoir vous affirmer, qu'outre la réception officielle, vous serez acclamé à Philippopoli par les vœux sympathiques de toute la population, et je ne doute pas un instant que votre mission, commençant sous de si heureux auspices, ne soit couronné d'un plein et entier succès.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) STOLIPINE.

Inclosure 23 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of this date on the subject of the arrival of Aleko Pasha, I beg to report to your Excellency that, immediately after General Stolipine had transferred his powers to the new Governor-General, a letter was handed to Aleko Pasha, in which his Excellency was asked to appoint an hour at which it would be convenient for him to receive the visit of the Consular Body, and, in accordance with his Excellency's appointment, the Consular Body, headed by Prince Tzereteleff, as Doyen, waited upon him and offered their congratulations on his arrival, and the expression of their earnest desire for the maintenance of the most sincere and cordial relations between the Governor-General and the Consular Body, whose best efforts and energies were at his Excellency's disposal in the accomplishment of the great and difficult task which he had undertaken.

Aleko Pasha replied in suitable terms, expressing a hope that the Consular Body would give him their best aid in the furtherance of his mission, which he acknowledges to be one of great difficulty.

The Consular Body then proceeded to take leave of General Stolipine, who had removed to the house of the Russian Consul-General, and to thank him for the courtesy which he had officially and socially exercised in his relations with the Consuls resident in this town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 24 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

IN compliance with my request the Bulgarian Exarch has supplied me with the inclosed French text of his address to Aleko Pasha in the Bulgarian Church this morning.

The French is very imperfect, but I think it is a very literal translation of what the Exarch read in Bulgarian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 25 in No. 102.

French text of Address made by Bulgarian Exarch to Aleko Pasha, May 27, 1879.

Altesse,

L'ÉGLISE et la population par notre humilité sont heureuses de saluer vous, Prince, comme Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Fils de l'illustre Bulgare qui premier a fait don de sa maison à Constantinople pour l'Eglise Bulgare, dans laquelle a été commencé et achevé notre indépendance ecclésiastique, orné d'une éducation Chrétienne Européenne, doué de qualités distinguées, d'une expérience éprouvée, d'une probité universellement reconnue, et d'un caractère indépendant, la population espère que, conformément aux sentiments humanitaires des Grandes Puissances, votre Altesse appliquera les nouvelles institutions de manière à donner à cette province la sécurité, le bien-être, et le bonheur possible.

Si ce pays a été si agité et si mécontent c'est que, après les premiers massacres et pendant la guerre après les seconds massacres, les pendaisons en masse, les incendies, les destructions, et les extérminations de villages et de villes entières, et après la ruine presque complète du pays; les populations ont vu dans les décisions du Congrès de Berlin que même l'autonomie n'est pas une suffisante garantie contre le retour de toutes ces horreurs dont ils frémissent, et étaient décidées de mourir plutôt que de se soumettre à une situation si critique.

Néanmoins, avec la nomination de votre Altesse pour Gouverneur-Général et les assurances qu'on n'enverra pas de garnisons dans les Balkans, la parole seule toute puissante de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre que les populations, pour les sacrifices faites par lui pour l'amélioration de leur sort, regardent comme leur père, sa seule parole toute puissante calma les craintes et la surexcitation, prépara les esprits à regarder avec plus de confiance dans l'avenir et d'accepter l'autonomie.

L'œuvre que vous avez maintenant à accomplir est difficile, mais glorieux et patriotique. Malgré tous les soins paternelles de l'Administration Russe pour guérir les plaies des populations, elles sont si nombreuses et si profonds que votre Altesse aussi aura beaucoup de plaies à fermer, beaucoup de maux à guérir, beaucoup de pleurs à essuyer, beaucoup de malheurs à adoucir, presque toute la province à relever graduellement des ruines. Mais elle y aura le concours de tous les patriotes et toutes ces difficultés elle les surmontera. Notre humilité avec le clergé ne cessera de prier le Tout-Puissant de vous fortifier par Sa grâce dans la réalisation de vos bonnes intentions pour le bien de la province et de l'Empire.

Inclosure 26 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Most Confidential.)

Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

I CANNOT conceal from your Excellency the painful impression which the arrival of Aleko Pasha, with a Bulgarian kalpak on his head, produced upon me this morning at the railway station. It was, in my opinion, a symptom of weakness and cowardice, which bodes no good for the future position and influence of the new Governor-General, who ought to have taken possession of his post with all the dignity and attributes of the Sultan's Representative.

Instead of doing so he listened, at the last moment, to the interested advice and warnings of General Stolipine's emissaries, and submitted to be presented to the population of Philippopolis in an incongruous costume, emblematical of Russian and Bulgarian triumph.

He ought, I think, to have known that there was no danger whatever of a tumult on the occasion of his arrival in a head-dress denoting his proper rank and character, and even if he had been induced to apprehend any isolated attempt on his life, he ought to have discharged his duty towards his Sovereign, and, I may say, towards Europe (Russia excepted), regardless of considerations for his personal safety.

His attitude in the Cathedral, while he was being addressed by the Exarch, was entirely wanting in the dignity which his position demanded; but it was probably a consciousness of the mistake he had committed in electing to be clothed in what may be termed a harlequin costume that rendered him visibly nervous, and almost furtive in his manner.

The advantage which the Bulgarian party have thus gained, however frivolous it may be substantially, will inevitably encourage their agitators to demand further concessions to their *quasi*-patriotism; and I regret to say that my first impression of Aleko Pasha is, that he is capable of being led and frightened into courses opposed to general and European interests in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 27 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that General Vitalis to-day received the command of the militia of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—General Vitalis was offered the command at midnight, but he refused to accept it, as General Stolipine told him that he would hold him responsible for any "disorders" on the occasion of the arrival of Aleko Pasha.

The General was, however, induced to accompany the emissary who was sent by the Governor-General this morning to prevail upon Aleko Pasha to abstain from wearing a fez.

T. M.

Inclosure 28 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD a conversation with General Stolipine this day on the subject of the appointments which he had made in this province.

His Excellency agreed that it would be very dangerous for Aleko Pasha to confirm these appointments before he had had some opportunity of judging of the merits and qualities of the persons who had been named; and he stated that he had advised his successor to confirm them temporarily, that is to say, to allow the present occupants of offices to perform their functions for a certain time as Acting Prefects, Sub-Prefects, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 29 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

I ASKED General Stolipine this afternoon the result of the measures for the suppression of the disturbances in the district of Karnabad.

His Excellency said that the Turks implicated in the murder of six Bulgarians, and the Bulgarians who had taken part in disorders against Turks in that district, had been arrested, and would be tried by a military Court at Slivno; but that as, in the event of their being found guilty, it would not be consistent to deport them to Siberia, his Excellency would cause them to be sent to Constantinople for punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 30 in No. 102.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, May 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that General Stolipine intends to leave to-morrow for Slivno, which town will be his head-quarters during the remainder of the term of the Russian occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 31 in No. 102.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Adrianople, May 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that in the course of conversation with Réouf Pasha to-day, the subject having turned upon general politics, I remarked that it was matter for congratulation that Austria and Germany seemed to be now taking a more active part in opposing the ambitious projects of Russia.

Upon this the Pasha, in an earnest undertone, said: "I will tell you, confidentially, something—a piece of information which has lately reached me from a sure source, and which afflicts me beyond measure. It is that Prince Bismarck has let fall a *mot* to the effect that, whilst all German peoples were destined to fall into the great German Empire of the future, it was reserved for Austria to unite to herself the Southern Slavs, with Constantinople for a capital."

Réouf Pasha argued, therefore, that Austrian and German hostility to Russia would not imply friendship for Turkey. He remarked that the annexation of Bosnia—"Germany's gift to Austria"—appeared to be a first step taken towards the realization of Prince Bismarck's programme.

The Pasha further told me that when General Stolipine passed through this, on his return to Philippopolis, the other day, he had a long conversation with him on many confidential subjects, and that the General remarked, among other things, that the Eastern question could not be satisfactorily settled without a war with Austria, and that such a war was inevitable at no distant time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 32 in No. 102.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 26, 1879.

Sir,

I REGRET to inform your Excellency that no material progress has yet been made in the organization of the gendarmerie of this vilayet since the date of my last Report on the subject of the 8th instant.

There has been, it is true, a slight increase in the number of men. There are now 6 companies of infantry, 80 strong each, and 30 cavalry, making together 510 men; and another infantry company is expected from Constantinople in a day or two.

Nearly all the infantry men have been in the army, but they have had scarcely any drill. They are now being exercised for three or four hours every day. The duty of civility to the public is strongly inculcated on the men. For the reasons already stated there are but four Christians in this branch of the gendarmerie.

Of the small number of cavalry men nearly one half are Christians.

All the infantry officers but one are Turks. There are two Polish and one Turkish cavalry officer.

As regards pay, only three medjidiés (about 7*s.* 10*d.*) per man have yet been given. The first enrolments date from more than as many months ago. The rate of pay has not yet been fixed, but it is understood that it will be higher than that of the army.

No definite Gendarmerie Regulations have yet been sent here, but the Porte has forwarded the manuscript draft of certain Regulations, whose provisions are now being considered and discussed by a Commission presided over by the Town Commandant, Brigadier-General Rifaat Pasha, and whose members comprise Colonels Blunt and Whitty, and Major Azmi Bey, of the gendarmerie, with two Turkish staff officers. These Regulations consist of two parts, the first of which relates to the gendarmerie, and the second to the municipal police. This last has been taken first in order for discussion, and it has not yet been disposed of. It does not appear whether the text of the gendarmerie section is that of Baker Pasha's project, or some other.

Although the Vali is not wanting in manifestations of good-will, Colonel Blunt informs me that he is conscious of the existence in certain quarters of a latent antagonism towards him and Colonel Whitty, and of a tendency to deconsider his position as Commandant of the force. I myself, as well as Colonel Blunt, have had occasion to know that a handle is made of the fact that his rank and official status have not been confirmed (as was done in the case of Colonel Alix, now at Crete) by an Imperial Firman, and that he is disparagingly spoken of in consequence as a "mere contract man."

I beg leave to submit that it is very desirable, therefore, that the necessary credentials be furnished at once to Colonel Blunt at least, if not to Colonel Whitty also, with a view to the efficient performance of their task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 33 in No. 102.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, May 28, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour herewith to inclose to your Excellency a numerously sealed document from the Mussulman villages in the Balkan, setting forth the ill-treatment to which they are still being subjected, all the occurrences mentioned being recent.

I advised the bearers, as most of the villages in question belonged to East Roumelia, and that such of them as did not, as Dana Gueuz, Tchelibi-keui, and Soujoulon, were yet held under the governments of Aidos and Ahiolo, that they had better address themselves to Bourgas, or to Philibé, the Government centre. To this they replied that they would have done so, but that, having no hope of ever reaching those places, especially on such an errand, alive, they were obliged to ask of me to get their petition forwarded to the proper quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 34 in No. 102.

Petition from Mussulman Inhabitants of Balkan Villages.

(Translation.)

EIGHT Bulgarians from Ergetch and Soudjoulon kill Mehmed Oghlou Hassan Agha, and drive away to an hour's distance the cattle of Guebesh-keui, and then pierce them with bayonets; thence going to Karamandja. They rob one man working in an Indian corn-field of his cattle, leaving him ruined; and kill another man by shooting him. On Bulgarians entering village, Mussulman inhabitants flee to Akdere, where they apply to the Zaptieh Alexian, who, for all reply, tells them that it is not his affair, which is to collect fines. (He had taken 300 roubles from Armoutlar.)

At Dana Gueuz, about noon, one day, six Bulgars, also from Ergetch and Soudjoulon, attack the inhabitants, firing on them, despoil them, and carry off seventy beehives.

At Topadjlar, Bulgars kill Kara Ahmed and wound Medil (?) Mehmed, who is now confined to his bed. At the villages of Sirt Tchelibi, Djumaa and Kalgamatch, they have committed all sorts of atrocities; and ruined the villages of Kazalik and Bairak. At the present time, the Mussulman inhabitants of four or five villages are collected at Denizlar; are held in a state of siege, expecting every minute to be plundered. The other day, the neighbours of Deniz-keui were fired upon by Bulgars while feeding their cattle at the edge of the village. A youth had the staff in his hand struck by a bullet, and another being fired at him passed through his head, killing him instantly. Kopt Ali, of Khodja-keui, robbed of his sacks by seven Bulgars while coming from mill. At Kychla Dere, inhabitants turned adrift, and their houses given to Bulgarian incomers. At Veli Basha, two pair of buffaloes, and at Gueuzuki, one pair of buffaloes, stolen.

May 14, 1879.

Inclosure 35 in No. 102.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rustchuk, May 22, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state, in continuation of my despatch of the 25th March to your Excellency, that on the 14th of this month I again visited Iovend Tabin, and found that no change had taken place in its condition. The demolition of the walls of the town ditch continues slowly, as the stones are required.

During the last week the municipality have commenced to repair thoroughly the street leading to the railway station, commencing at the inner gate of the two which cross the street; and this gate not only narrows the street, but gives it an inconvenient twist. I asked the engineer in charge of the works if it was not intended to remove the archway and fill up the ditch. He replied that the municipality wished to do so,

but had been forbidden by the Russian Governor-General, Major Akimoff, because that person wished to have a triumphal march out of the town on the completion of the evacuation.

The following shipments of troops, &c., have taken place from Rustchuk:—

May 16.—Six schleps, with one battery of artillery and four companies of infantry.

May 18.—Two schleps, with guns and tumbrils.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 103.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 127.)

My Lord,

Athens, May 27, 1879.

TWO natives of Epirus, MM. Melas and Basilio, and M. Skouloudi, a Greek subject, who has extensive connections at Constantinople, three persons of importance here, have been charged by certain inhabitants of Janina and the neighbourhood to proceed to Constantinople and submit to the Conference of Ambassadors which, it was understood, was appointed to be formed there to bring about an arrangement for a new frontier between Greece and Turkey, to express their earnest desire that the suggestions of the Congress of Berlin in regard to the matter should be carried out, and that the city of Janina should be included in the cession of territory to be made to Greece.

The instructions addressed to these gentlemen are signed by the Archbishop, the Primates, and the Greek clergy in general; by all the scientific bodies, medical men, and lawyers; in fact, by all the principal Greek inhabitants of the district.

The official seals of the Moukhtars, or principal persons in the Mahommedan communities, are also appended to it to the number of about fifteen. The deputation will defer their departure for Constantinople until after M. Fournier, who is expected to spend a few days in Athens on his way to his post, shall have arrived here, when they hope to be able to ascertain something more than is known at present in regard to the mode in which the negotiations at Constantinople are to be conducted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 104.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 45.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of Protocol No. 3 of the séance held on the 22nd instant.

In explanation of the circumstances that the Protocols are not as yet signed, I beg to state that General Stébnitsky, the Russian Commissioner, has been ill to attend since the first séance. The Protocol of the second séance was partly read at the third séance, but the reading of the remainder was deferred in consequence of a discrepancy between the English and Russian copies. With regard to Protocol No. 3, the sitting closed with my withdrawal, and we have had no meeting since. Protocol No. 3, herewith sent, has, however, been drawn up by the English and Russian Secretaries, and, with the exception of the *rédaction* of Ali Nizami Pasha's remark on page with reference to the San Stefano map, the two copies of the respective Secretaries correspond.

I regret to say that the Russian Secretary is very tricky, and on more than one occasion has by the alteration of words or phrases, endeavoured to alter the sense of what the different speakers sought to convey. Captain Gill, however, keeps his Protocol with great correctness, and pending the receipt of the signed copies, I beg that your Lordship will not admit as correct any other copies of the Protocols than those I have had the honour to forward.

It is with the greatest pain that I have to take these precautions, which, to honest straight-forward men, appear superfluous; but I regret to say that my short acquaintance

with the Russian representatives on the Boundary Commission shows that these precautions are absolutely necessary.

I have, &c,
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Protocole No. 3.—Séance tenue au Seraskierat, Stamboul, le 22 Mai, 1879.

Etaient présents:

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha,
Son Excellence Féyzi Pacha,
M. le Colonel Chéhab Bey.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine,
M. A. Emélianoff.

Pour l'Angleterre—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke,
M. le Capitaine Gill.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure de l'après-midi.

Selon le désir de M. le Président, *M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine* dit que son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky l'a chargé de faire part à la Commission relativement à la position du point de frontière à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan de la déclaration suivante:—

"Le point en question a été établi par le Traité de San Stéfano, et, par conséquent, est indiqué sur la carte jointe à ce Traité. Or, il paraît de cette carte que ce point se trouve à quelques kilomètres du village de Kara-Ourgan. Dans le Protocole No. 17 du Congress de Berlin, le même point de frontière est désigné comme point se trouvant près de Zevin-Kaleh. Comme il paraît des levées faites sur l'échelle d'une verste dans une pouce, il y a quatre crêtes entre le village de Zevin et celui de Kara-Ourgan. La position que les Délégués Russes proposent pour être le point de frontière, se trouve sur la troisième crête de Zevin, et sur la seconde de Kara-Ourgan, à 2 kilom. de ce dernier, et 3½ kilom. de Zevin.

"Une telle position de point qui doit se trouver à proximité de Zevin et de Kara-Ourgan est, selon l'opinion du Délégué Russe, une proposition bien modérée, et la restreindre encore serait agir en contradiction avec la position du point frontière désignée sur la carte de San Stéfano, et mentionnée dans le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès de Berlin.

"En outre, le point indiqué par le Délégué Russe est une hauteur saillainte, et peut, par conséquent, être un point convenable de frontière.

"Je me crois en devoir d'y ajouter que le principal motif qui m'a guidé dans le choix du point frontière à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, était la base déjà admise par la Commission, que la frontière, pour les facilités administratives des deux pays limitrophes, doit suivre les hauteurs les plus saillantes, et non les petites crêtes et les petites collines, en conservant le plus possible aux habitants les propriétés et les terrains dont ils jouissent actuellement.

"Pour faire ressortir que le point en question à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan n'a d'autre portée que celle dont j'ai parlé plus haut, on n'a qu'à consulter la carte: en plus on peut s'en convaincre sur les lieux, comme j'ai eu l'occasion d'y parvenir personnellement.

"Mais en admettant le point de frontière sur la colline la plus proche de Kara-Ourgan, il en resulterait que ce point se trouverait sur la même plaine ondulée, sur laquelle est situé le village même. Donc trop près de Kara-Ourgan, et relativement trop loin de Zevin, ce qui serait en opposition avec les arguments basés sur les documents invoqués plus hauts."

Pendant la lecture M. de Lieutenant-Colonel Wereguine donne ses explications sur les cartes, et ajoute que, d'après le texte du Protocole No. 17 du Congrès de Berlin, le point indiqué auprès de Zevin-Kaleh de la frontière de San Stéfano se trouve justement être le point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan mentionné dans le Traité de Berlin.

Ce point, comme il a déjà eu l'honneur de l'exposer dans la séance précédente, forme la pointe de la coudée de la ligne de frontière de San Stéfano, mentionnée dans le Protocole No. 17, que l'on trouve sur le transparent.

Entre ce point et Kara-Ourgan se trouve une vallée nettement indiquée sur la carte Russe de 20 verstes, et qui ne peut être que la vallée à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, indiquée sur les plans topographiques présentés à la Commission. Ce point, conformément au transparent, étant sur la rive droite de la vallée, ne saurait logiquement être transportée sur la rive opposée.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke a l'honneur de faire observer que dans le Traité de Berlin il n'y a aucune mention ni du Traité de San Stéfano ni de la frontière à Zevin, et que, par conséquent, il trouve les observations de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wereguine à ce sujet absolument hors de propos.

Quant à la carte jointe à ce Traité, dont M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine a présenté un transparent signé, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke fait observer qu'elle est dressée sur une petite échelle, et que la ligne-frontière y est indiquée par une bande très-large.

Après avoir mis le transparent en question sur la carte originale de laquelle il a été copié, on s'est aperçu d'abord que le transparent n'est pas conforme.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke fit ensuite observer que le point défini par M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine n'est pas (même sur son transparent) au sud de la parallèle de Kara-Ourgan, et il ne comprend pas comment M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wereguine veut-il maintenant proposer un point au sud de la dite parallèle.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha ajoute que l'échelle de la dite carte n'est pas assez grande pour faire ressortir distinctement les distances.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine, en réponse aux observations de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, fait remarquer que le Traité n'est autre chose que le résumé des arrangements renfermés dans les Protocoles, par conséquent, en étudiant le Traité il est de toute nécessité de s'en référer aux détails qui sont insérés dans ces Protocoles.

Il en résulte donc qu'il n'est jamais hors de propos de s'en référer aux Protocoles lorsque les circonstances l'exigent, et le droit du Délégué Russe, ainsi que celui de tout Délégué, de faire appel à les documents d'une portée internationale, ne saurait aucunement être limité.

Quant aux observations du Délégué Britannique par rapport à l'inexactitude du transparent, il les considère comme une appréciation personnelle, et sans aucune base.

Pour ce qui concerne les remarques de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke sur la position du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, il n'a qu'à réitérer les opinions déjà émises dans la pièce qu'il a eu l'honneur de produire à l'ouverture de la séance.

Pour ce que M. le Lieutenant-de Wereguine a dit au sujet du Protocole No. 17 du Traité de Berlin, *M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke* se trouve d'accord avec les Commissaires Ottomans qui ont manifesté que c'est leur devoir de se baser sur le Traité de Berlin.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha admet que sans doute lorsqu'il y a de l'obscurité dans les termes du Traité, alors on doit se référer aux Protocoles; mais dans le cas actuel le Traité est parfaitement clair et ne laisse aucun doute au sujet du point de départ des travaux de la Commission.

Il se base plutôt sur le Traité même et non pas sur les Protocoles, qui ne sont que d'ailleurs l'expression des opinions des membres du Congrès; il ajoute que si l'on donne la préférence aux Protocoles on dériverait beaucoup des termes du Traité. En outre, il ne peut pas se faire une idée comment on peut contester le droit du Commissaire Britannique de participer à la délimitation depuis un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine croit de son devoir de réitérer que les Protocoles renferment l'exposé des arrangements pris par les signataires du Traité de Berlin, ainsi que les indications sur le tracé de la frontière Russo-Turque sont, selon lui, les commentaires inhérents au Traité. L'extrait du Protocole No. 17 qu'il a eu l'honneur de citer en est un exemple évident.

En réponse aux observations de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine relativement à la position du point au sud-ouest de Kara-Ourgan, *M. le Lieutenant Colonel Clarke* est loin de disputer que M. le Délégué Russe l'a bien expliquée; il désire seulement ajouter que ce point se trouve à l'ouest 27° sud de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine dit qu'il a été guidé dans le choix du point saillant qu'il indiquait, par les considérations que ce point satisferait le mieux aux

conditions essentielles d'une bonne frontière; mais quand surgit la question qu'il fallait comprendre l'expression à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan dans un sens tout-à-fait précis, M. le Commissaire Russe indiqua un autre point saillant précisément à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke croit que le point en question est plutôt ouest 27′ sud.

Quant à la modération dont a parlé M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine, il ne la voit pas puisque—

1. M. le Commissaire Russe désire violer le Traité de Berlin en se basant sur celui de San Stéfano et sur le transparent inexact qui l'a accompagné, et en donnant à la frontière une direction de sud-ouest au lieu de celle sur Medjingherd.*

2. M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine veut rejeter le point déjà convenu entre les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans et en choisir un autre qui ne figure pas sur la frontière déjà arrêtée par les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans, mais qui se trouve sur la frontière déjà rayée.

Au contraire, malgré le droit de son Gouvernement de participer à la fixation du point en question, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke est bien disposé à accepter comme point final celui arrêté par la Commission Russe et Turque.

3. M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine désire encore une fois imposer un tracé dont la rayure de la carte a été la condition essentielle de la présence du Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke aux séances.

M. le Délégué Russe voit avec peine que M. le Délégué Britannique confond constamment le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès de Berlin avec le Traité de San Stéfano, dont il n'a été question dans la séance. C'est le Protocole No. 17 qui a été lu à la séance et non le texte du Traité de San Stéfano.

Ce qui concerne l'expression dont s'est servi M. le Délégué Britannique en imputant au Délégué Russe le désir de violer le Traité de Berlin en se basant sur celui de San Stéfano, il la trouve parfaitement arbitraire et absolument hors de propos, ainsi que la remarque faite sur l'inexactitude du transparent qui est un document en règle et qui ne saurait être contesté.

Dans la première séance, continue M. le Commissaire Russe, à laquelle il a eu l'honneur d'assister, M. le Président avait proposé à l'ouverture de la séance, premièrement et avant tout, de choisir un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan avec la coopération des trois délégués.

Par conséquent il a cru de son devoir, indépendamment du droit formel de chacun des Délégués, dans le choix de ce point, d'exposer tous les arguments, basés sur des documents relatifs à sa position et à celle de la partie de la frontière adhérente.

En outre, M. le Délégué Russe exprime que c'est son droit d'émettre librement ses opinions aussi bien sur le point de départ que sur le tracé ultérieur de la frontière; il pense que le même droit sans doute appartient également aux autres Délégués, et il ne reconnaît pas la possibilité d'imposer ses opinions aux autres Délégués.

Pour ce que M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine a avancé à propos d'une vallée entre la frontière de San Stéfano et Kara-Ourgan, c'est à regret que *M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke* observe que M. le Commissaire Russe revient toujours au Traité de San Stéfano et au Protocole No. 17, en laissant de côté le Traité de Berlin, qui est d'ailleurs parfaitement clair, et ne demande aucune explication à ce sujet.

M. le Commissaire Russe est obligé de faire observer que pendant la séance il n'a allégué que le Protocole No. 17 du Congrès de Berlin, que M. le Délégué Britannique se plaît constamment à confondre avec le Traité de San Stéfano.

M. le Commissaire Britannique ne peut pas s'abstenir de faire observer que le point déjà choisi par les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans (mais que maintenant le Commissaire Russe désire rejeter) accomplit toutes les conditions exigées par le Traité de Berlin.

De plus, ce point se trouve sur le partage de deux cours d'eau, et sur les hauteurs qui se dirigent vers le sud, et selon la carte Russe sur un point assez saillant. La frontière qui passe ainsi est la continuation naturelle de la frontière déjà tracée sur le partage des susdits cours d'eau, tandis que celle indiquée par M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine descend sans aucune raison évidente des hauteurs et traverse une vallée dans une direction approximativement sud-ouest pour gagner une autre hauteur.

M. le Commissaire Russe fait observer que la direction de la partie de la frontière qu'il indique est basée sur la nécessité de respecter les intérêts économiques du village de Kara-Ourgan, lesquels, selon lui, ne sauraient être satisfaits qu'à la condition de

* « D'un point à l'ouest près du . . . . » (Voir Traité de Berlin, Article LVIII.)

cette seule direction de la frontière, et engage les Délégués de s'en convaincre sur les lieux.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke avance qu'en faisant une comparaison entre les deux copies signées de la carte* on s'aperçoit que celle entre les mains du Commissaire Russe n'est pas d'accord avec celle des Commissaires Ottomans.

Leurs Excellences Nédjib et Ali Nizami Pachas affirment que dans le tracé de cette partie de la frontière,† ils n'ont jamais quitté la crête, et qu'ils pensent que leur copie est la plus exacte.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine dit que les deux cartes sont également signées par MM. les Commissaires Russes et Ottomans, et par conséquent d'une valeur documentale identique.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha fait rappeler que dans les Protocoles précédents les Commissaires ont déjà tenu compte des intérêts économiques; il ajoute en outre que selon le "droit des gens," tout le monde est libre d'aller dans un pays étranger même pour visiter ses propres moulins; que lorsqu'un pays passe à la possession d'une autre Puissance, les villageois ne sont pas dépourvus de leurs propriétés.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha fait remarquer qu'on ne doit pas gâter une frontière naturelle pour le moulin d'un paysan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke est loin de contester l'affirmation de son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky que le point qu'il désire choisir sera convenable sous un point de vue économique, et il n'aurait jamais songé à chercher des preuves sur la carte pour démontrer le contraire; mais puisque le Commissaire Russe fait appel à la carte, le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke ne peut pas s'empêcher de démontrer que les moulins sont indiqués partout ailleurs sur la carte, tandis qu'il n'y a aucun signe de moulin dans l'endroit mentionné par son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine affirme que selon les informations recueillies par M. le Général Stébnitsky ces terrains sont des propriétés des habitants de Kara-Ourgan, et la preuve en est qu'ils sont à proximité de ce même village.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke dit que quant à la plaine ondulée, dont a parlé M. le Commissaire Russe, il démontre que d'après la carte Russe, il y a entre les deux cours d'eau une hauteur assez saillante.

Quant à Zevin et aux arguments basés sur les documents invoqués par M. le Commissaire Russe, *M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke* se trouve parfaitement d'accord avec les Délégués Ottomans, en réitérant qu'il n'a pas le droit de mépriser le Traité de Berlin pour se réfugier dans celui de San Stéfano, et dans les Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine ne peut pas s'empêcher d'exprimer son étonnement de voir encore une fois confondre le Traité de San Stéfano avec les Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin—deux choses trop distinctes pour être confondues.

Ensuite le Commissaire Russe répète les opinions de son Excellence le Général Stébnitsky, et mû par un esprit de conciliation, propose d'admettre le point indiqué par les Commissaires à condition que les intérêts économiques du village de Kara-Ourgan soient sauvegardés en leur conservant les propriétés qui sont sur la rivière.

M. le Président fait observer qu'une nouvelle Commission ayant été nommée, pour être en règle, il a fallu commencer par la fixation d'un point de départ sans y attacher aucune condition.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha et M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke affirment qu'en fixant le point de départ ils ne peuvent pas accepter les conditions que M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine veut imposer, et ils répètent que selon le Traité de Berlin ce point doit être à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan; qu'ils ne trouvent pas qu'ils ont le droit de s'écarter du Traité, comme désire le faire le Commissaire Russe en choisissant un point au sud-ouest.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine, voyant que l'on n'arrivait à aucune conclusion propre, dans l'intérêt de faire avancer les travaux, propose de remettre le choix du point sur les lieux et de continuer présentement à étudier le tracé ultérieur de la frontière.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha dit qu'il ne comprend pas comment on peut espérer à tomber d'accord sur les lieux si on ne peut pas le faire à présent.

Son Excellence Ali Nizami Pacha démontre que selon le Traité de Berlin le Commissaire Britannique a le droit de participer dans la délimitation depuis un point à l'ouest près de Kara-Ourgan; si, au contraire, le point de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de

* C'est-à-dire de la carte de la frontière jusqu'au 40° 15′ de latitude (Kara-Ourgan est à peu près en latitude 40° 14′ 50″).

† C'est-à-dire la portion qui se trouve entre 40° 15′ de latitude et 40° 16′.

Wereguine est accepté, comme point de départ, alors la frontière sera tracée au delà du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, sans la participation de M. le Commissaire Britannique.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke regrette que M. le Commissaire Russe veut maintenant rejeter un point auquel il avait préalablement consenti; ou bien il tâche à faire prévaloir une frontière déjà rayée de la carte par son consentement.

M. le Commissaire Russe croit qu'en émettant ses opinions dans la Commission actuelle sur la direction de la frontière, il ne les a jamais rattachées à un tracé, qui, d'après la déclaration du Délégué Britannique lui-même, n'existe pas.

Il suppose en outre que la Commission étant un champ de libres discussions, chacun des Délégués, selon les documents, peut librement et indépendamment projeter un tracé. Ainsi, en cas de non-unanimité, chacun des Délégués pourrait indiquer son projet de tracé sur la carte et ces projets seraient alors soumis à l'appréciation des autorités compétentes.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke donne ensuite lecture de la pièce suivante :—

"M. le Président,

"Excellence,

"Il sera à la connaissance des membres de la Commission qu'à la première séance préliminaire du 21 Avril, je me trouvai dans la nécessité de me séparer de mes collègues jusqu'à ce que la frontière tracée au delà de Kara-Ourgan, sans ma participation, eut été rayée. A la première séance formelle du 5 Mai, ayant reçu l'autorisation de mon Ambassadeur, après qu'une communication lui avait été faite par M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et par M. le Prince Labanoff, je m'y suis rendu.

"Après l'ouverture de la séance, votre Excellence, parlant au nom des membres de la Commission comme leur Président, m'assura que la frontière au delà de Kara-Ourgan avait été rayée de la carte, et que le point à l'ouest du dit village restait a être fixé par les trois Commissaires—Russe, Turc, et Britannique.

"Trouvant les assurances de votre Excellence satisfaisantes, je pris part à cette séance. Mais, en dépit des assurances, à la seconde séance du 19 Mai, le Général Stébnitsky, étant absent, par la bouche de son adjoint, tâchait de soulever encore une fois la question du droit du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

"Afin d'accélérer le travail de la Commission qui, jusqu'à présent, a été très en rétard d'une cause ou de l'autre, et animé d'un esprit conciliateur, je tâchais de me mettre d'accord dès le premier moment avec mes collègues et je m'étais disposé (sans toutefois renoncer au droit du Gouvernement Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan) d'accepter un point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan qui se trouve sur la frontière marquée sur une carte (copie de celle présentée à la Sublime Porte) placée à ma disposition par la Commission.

"Malgré cette disposition de ma part, d'après les paroles du Commissaire-Adjoint Russe, il n'acceptait pas sans condition le point que j'ai indiqué, mais désirait mêler avec ce point un autre au sud-ouest de Kara-Ourgan; un point, en effet, sur la frontière qui a été déjà rayée de la carte, selon la déclaration de son Excellence le Président de la Commission."

Ensuite, M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke passe à M. le Président l'une des questions par écrit.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha lit ce qui suit: "Si M. le Commissaire Russe questionne le droit du Gouvernement Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan?"

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine répond qu'il ne saurait contester le droit du Gouvernement Britannique de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan, attendu qu'il ne connaît pas les instructions dont M. le Commissaire Britannique est muni. Mais ce qu'il saurait dire c'est que d'après la lettre de son Excellence Mr. Malet, ci-devant Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique près de Sa Majesté le Sultan, adressée à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Russie, le Prince Labanoff, M. le Commissaire Britannique a retiré son exigence de participer à la fixation du point en question. Ensuite, M. le Commissaire Russe passe l'original à son Excellence Nédjib Pacha.

M. le Président lit la lettre conçue en ces termes:—

"Reçu le $\frac{3}{15}$ Avril, 1879, Mardi.

"Cher Prince,

"Major Clarke retire son exigence à participer à la fixation du point près de Kara-Ourgan. Il se présentera à la Commission aussitôt que j'aurai reçu avis que le tracé au delà de ce point a été rayé.

"Votre très-dévoué,

(Signé) E. B. MALET."

"A son Excellence le Prince Labanoff, &c."

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke maintient son droit de participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan et présente à M. le Président la seconde question par écrit.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha lit: "Si M. le Commissaire Russe répudie que le point indiqué par moi à la dernière séance, et affirmé par les Délégués Ottomans d'être un point sur la frontière tracée par la Commission Russo-Turque, est un point sur la dite frontière?"

M. le Délégué de Russie croit que le point indiqué par M. le Commissaire Britannique n'est pas le point qui avait été l'objet des délibérations de la Commission Russo-Turque. Finalement, il propose de nouveau, pour ne pas arrêter les travaux ultérieures du tracé à projeter, de réserver la question du point aux Délégués de délimitation pour être tranchée sur les lieux.

Son Excellence Nédjib Pacha dit qu'il serait désirable de fixer le point maintenant, et ensuite demande à M. le Lieutenant-Colonel de Wereguine s'il accepte le point dont a parlé M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke comme étant un point sur la frontière déjà tracée par la Commission Russo-Turque.

M. le Lieutenant Colonel de Wereguine répond qu'il n'est pas tenu à accepter le point proposé par M. le Délégué Britannique, d'autant plus que conformément à la lettre qu'il a eu l'honneur de produire à la Commission, il s'ensuit que M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke a retiré son exigence à participer à la fixation du point à l'ouest de Kara-Ourgan.

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke dit que c'est avec le plus profond regret que, pour les mêmes raisons que d'autrefois, il est de son devoir de se séparer encore une fois de ses collègues.

La séance est levée à 4 heures 30 minutes.

No. 105.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 336.)

Vienna, June 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the text of the Convention between Turkey and Austria-Hungary respecting the administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina and the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, which is published in the "Official Gazette" this morning.

As there are several, though not very important, discrepancies between this official text of the Convention and that of which Mr. Malet sent a copy to your Lordship in his despatch No. 354 of the 28th April last, I have marked the passages in which the two texts differ.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Extract from the "Wiener Zeitung" of June 1, 1879.

Convention.

Official Text.

LES Gouvernements d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie s'étant réservé de s'entendre sur les détails de l'occupation stipulée par l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin, et le fait de l'occupation de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine ne portant pas atteinte aux droits de Souveraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan sur ces provinces, [les deux Gouvernements ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires :

L'Autriche-Hongrie, d'une part, son Excellence M. le Comte F. Zichy, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique près Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ;

Et la Turquie, de l'autre, son Excellence Al. Carathéodory Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et son Excellence Munif Effendi, Ministre de l'Instruction Publique ;

Lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs trouvés en bonne et due forme,] sont *convenus des Articles suivants* :—

As in Copy sent by Mr. Malet.

not mentioned.

tombés d'accord sur les points qui suivent.

ARTICLE I.

L'Administration de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine sera exercée conformément à l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin par l'Autriche-Hongrie ; toutefois, le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois n'objecte pas à conserver tous ceux des fonctionnaires actuels qui posséderaient les aptitudes nécessaires pour la bonne administration de leur emploi. En cas de remplacement, le choix du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois portera de préférence sur les personnes originaires de ces provinces.

ARTICLE II.

La liberté et la pratique extérieure de tous les cultes existants seront assurées aux personnes habitant ou séjournant en Bosnie et en Herzégovine. Notamment pleine liberté est assurée aux Musulmans dans leurs rapports avec leurs chefs spirituels. Les Commandants des troupes de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi et les autorités Administratives continueront à veiller avec le plus grand soin à ce qu'il ne soit porté aucune atteinte à l'honneur, aux mœurs, à la liberté du culte, à la sécurité des personnes et des propriétés des Musulmans.

Official Text.

Toute agression contre *des* Musulmans, leurs biens, ou leur religion sera sévèrement punie.

Le nom de Sa Majesté le Sultan continuera à être prononcé dans les prières publiques *des* Musulmans comme par le passé. En tant qu'il serait d'usage de hisser le drapeau *Ottoman* sur les minarets, cet usage sera respecté.

ARTICLE III.

Les revenus de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine seront affectés exclusivement à leurs besoins, leur administration et les améliorations jugées nécessaires.

ARTICLE IV.

Les monnaies Ottomanes effectives continueront à avoir libre cours en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.

ARTICLE V.

La Sublime Porte disposera à sa guise *des armes*, du matériel de guerre, et autres objets appartenant au Gouvernment Ottoman et qui se trouvaient dans les places fortes ou dans les garnisons.

A cet effet il sera dressé des inventaires avec l'intervention de Commissaires des deux Gouvernements.

ARTICLE VI.

La question du traitement des *habitants de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine* séjournant ou *voyageant hors de ces provinces* sera réglée ultérieurement par un arrangement spécial.

ARTICLE VII.

Pour atteindre dans un intérêt commun le but politique et militaire que l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin concernant le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar a en vue, les deux Gouvernements ont résolu de régler dès à présent les modalités dans lesquelles il sera procédé à son exécution.

A cet effet, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi s'engage à donner avis préalable au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan de l'époque où l'entrée des troupes Impériales et Royales devra s'effectuer.

Afin de prévenir tout délai inutile, les deux Gouvernments s'engagent dès aujourd'hui, chacun en ce qui le concerne, à munir, le cas échéant, sans retard, leurs autorités et Commandants respectifs des pleins pouvoirs nécessaires pour régler directement entre eux les questions se rattachant à la subsistance des troupes

As in Copy sent by Mr. Malet.

les

, selon l'usage

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Le traitement des Bosniaques et des Herzégoviniens . . . . de passage de Turquie sera réglé, &c.

Official Text.	*As in Copy sent by Mr. Malet.*
Impériales et Royales ainsi qu'à leur installation, et autres détails y relatifs.	
Il est d'ailleurs entendu que tous les frais, occasionnés de ce chef resteront à la charge du Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongroie.	
ARTICLE VIII.	
La présence des troupes de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi dans le Sandjak de Novi-Bazar ne portera aucune entrave au fonctionnement des autorités administratives, judiciaires, ou financières Ottomanes de tout ordre, qui continuera à s'exercer comme par le passé sous les ordres exclusifs et directs de la Sublime Porte.	qui seraient l'entrée -ont
ARTICLE IX.	
Si la Sublime Porte désire maintenir des *troupes régulières* même sur les points du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar où les troupes Austro-Hongroises *tiendront* garnison, aucun obstacle n'y sera apporté.	garnisons ont
Les troupes des deux *Etats* seront placées sur un pied de parfaite égalité en ce qui concerne leur nombre, les avantages militaires, et la liberté de leurs mouvements.	Otherwise framed, but similar in sense.
Dans toute l'étendue du Sandjak de Novi-Bazar, la Sublime Porte s'engage à ne pas maintenir de troupes irrégulières.	Puissances
ARTICLE X.	
Il est entendu toutefois que la faculté pour l'Autriche-Hongrie d'entretenir sur les *endroits* où les troupes doivent tenir garnison, conformément *aux dispositions* de l'Article VII, des troupes en nombre suffisant, selon le besoin des circonstances, ne doit pas être restreinte par ces dispositions.	points à
[En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie ont signé la présente Convention, et y ont apposé le sceau de leurs armes.	Left out.
Fait à Constantinople, le 21 Avril, 1869.]	Left out.
(L.S.) ZICHY, m.p. (L.S.) AL. CARATHÉODORY, m.p. (L.S.) MUNIF, m.p.	
Annexe à la Convention.	In body of Article X.
Il est entendu que dans les circonstances actuelles, le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie, tout en se réservant tous ses droits découlant de l'Article XXV du Traité de Berlin, n'a l'intention de placer des garnisons que *sur trois points* situés sur le Lim entre les frontières de la Serbie et du Monténégro. Ces points seraient	quelques endroits.

Official Text.	*As in Copy sent by Mr. Malet.*
Priboï, Priépoliyé, et Biélopoliyé. Le nombre des troupes destinées actuellement au service de ces garnisons, ne dépassera pas le chiffre de 4,000 à 5,000 hommes. Si, par suite des circonstances, la nécessité se présentait de placer les garnisons *sur* d'autres points, il sera procédé de part et d'autre dans le sens des dispositions de l'Article VII, sauf si le Gouvernement Autrichien avait l'intention de placer des troupes sur des points du Balkan de *Ragosna*, auquel cas il y aura lieu de s'entendre directement avec la Sublime Porte.	sera limité au strict nécessaire dans Plagorna.
(L.S.) ZICHY, m.p. (L.S.) AL. CARATHÉODORY, m.p. (L.S.) MUNIF, m.p.	
Constantinople, le 21 Avril, 1879.	

No. 106.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 337. Confidential.)

Vienna, June 1, 1879.

My Lord,

SIR HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF, in his Secret telegram to your Lordship of the 29th ultimo, reports M. Kallay to have hinted that Austria would not object to the union of the Slav provinces if not brought about by Russian agency.

There must be a very great and a very sudden change in the views of M. Kallay's Government if they share in the opinion he has expressed, for the creation of a great Slav State has been, as your Lordship is aware, the one chief danger against which they considered Austria especially called upon to guard. It was the probability of the extension of Servia after the war had destroyed the authority of the Porte in Bosnia that reconciled many, who were otherwise disinclined to it, to the occupation or annexation of that province, and it was to prevent an attempt at union between Servia and Montenegro that the Austro-Hungarian Government were so desirous of annexing the Secret Article to the Convention just concluded with Turkey about the occupation of the Novi-Bazar district.

Any such union appears so evidently contrary to the interests of this Empire, that its Government may, I believe, be safely trusted not to encourage it; but I shall not fail to report to your Lordship if I see the slightest disposition on their part to make this great change in their policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 107.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 338. Confidential.)

Vienna, June 1, 1879.

My Lord,

EDHEM PASHA having told me that he had every reason to be pleased with the language that had been held to him by Count Andrassy, I took the opportunity of expressing regret at the exaggerated distrust of Austria which had just been so unfortunately illustrated by the Sultan's insisting upon cancelling the Secret Article of the Novi-Bazar Convention, to which he had previously given his consent.

The Ambassador said that he could not deny the existence of this distrust, but he had seen the Sultan the evening before he left Constantinople, and he considered himself able to declare that he believed it to be diminishing, and he would do his

utmost to restore confidence between the two Governments, as he entirely concurred in a remark I had made of its being especially to England and Austria that the Porte must look for support. Though the Sultan had objected to the Secret Article, His Majesty would not be unwilling to come to an understanding with the Austrian Government upon a larger basis, corresponding in Europe to that which had been concluded with Her Majesty's Government in regard to Asia.

I said that he would, probably, just now find a difficulty in opening any confidential negotiations, after the example of the way in which they were liable to be betrayed to the very parties from whom they ought to be most carefully concealed.

He threw the blame of this indiscretion upon the Porte, and not on the Palace, intimating that, if negotiations were to be renewed, it should be directly with the Sultan, and not with the Ministers, and this, he said, he had the means of doing.

He asked what was the mode of proceeding by which the agreement between the Porte, Great Britain, and Austria, which he concurred in thinking most desirable, was to be brought about, and I answered that it would be ensured by the Porte following, as far as possible, the advice of those who were its friends, and refusing to listen to the insinuations made against them by others who have no claim to that title, as there had at times been too great a disposition to do.

The impression that I derived from this conversation was, first, that he will endeavour to improve the relations of his country with Austria; and, secondly, that he proposes to act in direct communication with the Sultan, to the exclusion of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom his relations are notoriously the reverse of cordial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 108.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 339.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 3, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I have inquired what the intention of the Austro-Hungarian Government is as to accrediting a Diplomatic Agent to Prince Alexander, and I have been told that the Imperial Government will be represented by a Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General.

Whilst Roumania was still a vassal State, the Austrian Government, upon the appointment of a new Agent and Consul-General, used to obtain for him an exequatur, or rather a berat, of the Porte, which, however, during recent years, he as a rule did not present on arriving at Bucharest.

Count Andrassy has not yet intimated the course that he proposes to follow in this respect as regards the Agent to be sent to Tirnovo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 109.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No 340.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 3, 1879.

M. KALLAY has reported a difference of opinion that has arisen among the members of the East Roumelian Commission respecting the obligation of the Governor-General to consult and be guided by them.

Count Andrassy has informed M. Kallay that, though it has been agreed that the Governor-General should not call in the Turkish troops unless a majority of the Commission considered it necessary, Aleko Pasha was, in his opinion, under no obligation to consult the Commission on other matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 110.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 341. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 3, 1879.

I AM informed that M. Kallay has reported that he does not believe there was any danger either of disturbance or of personal violence to Aleko Pasha if he had made his entry into Philippopolis in the usual dress of a Turkish official.

It is possible that the nerves of a very weak man may have been affected by reports spread with the intention of alarming him; but it looks more as if he had acted in concert with the Russians in a matter which, though trivial in itself, will be taken by both classes of the population as having an important political signification.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 111.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 342.)
My Lord,

Vienna, June 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the political Report which has been addressed to me by Mr. Monson from Buda-Pesth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir,

Buda-Pesth, May 29, 1879.

M. TISZA replied this morning to the interpellation recently addressed to him by the Deputy Helfy, respecting the Novi-Bazar Convention.

M. Helfy had asked:—

1. Whether it was true that such a Convention had been concluded?
2. If true, what is the nature of the Convention?
3. Does the Government intend to submit it to the Diet?

In the remarks preluding and justifying this interpellation, M. Helfy had further inquired whether Russia is executing the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin; whether it is to be hoped that the Eastern question is likely to be settled peaceably; and whether the Government intends to make use of the rights conceded by the Convention.

M. Tisza's statement in answer was to the following effect:—

As to the fact of the Convention, he might venture to confirm what all the world already knew, namely, that it had been really concluded.

As to its nature, the version published in the newspapers was, he believed, in general correct.

With regard to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin by Russia, the latter is acting up to her engagements; and as all the Powers are unanimous in their determination that the Treaty shall be carried out, it may be presumed that no difficulty will arise on this score.

The Russians had not completed the evacuation of the Balkan Peninsula by the 3rd May because some of the Powers, parties to the Treaty, had interpreted this particular point in different ways. The Porte itself, as well as the British Government, might be included in this category. In spite of these divergencies of opinion, all the Powers alike insisted upon the conclusion of the evacuation by the 3rd August.

As to M. Helfy's inquiry whether the Government meant to act upon the rights acquired under the Novi-Bazar Convention, the Premier had only to say that, according to his view, Conventions are concluded for the purpose of being carried out. This particular Convention had been concluded for the express purpose of enabling the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar to be effected gradually, and in accord with

the Ottoman Government, so that there may be no necessity for mobilization or for ulterior expenditure.

With respect to laying the Convention before the Diet, the Minister begged to point out that it was not one of those International Treaties which, according to the law, need be submitted to the Legislature. Moreover, this Convention, as has been the case with all Treaties concluded since 1867, will be published in the "Official Gazette," and thus be placed within the cognizance of everybody.

M. Helfy could not admit that M. Tisza's reasoning justified the Government in refusing to lay the Convention before the Diet; and declared that he, therefore, could not accept the Minister's answer as satisfactory.

The House, however, resolved that the Ministerial statement was acceptable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 112.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 6.*)

(No. 130.)
Belgrade, June 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a note addressed to me by M. Ristich, calling upon Her Majesty's Government, as one of the Signatory Powers, to be good enough to instruct the British Delegate to the Servian Boundary Commission to revise the section of the new frontier near Vranja, which was delimitated last autumn, and to provide Servia with strong defensive positions along the other sections of the boundary on the side of Turkey still to be defined, the Servian Government alleging that the recent deplorable events on the south-east of the Principality have proved the impossibility of properly guarding against hostile incursions the line of frontier assigned by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 112.

M. Ristich to Mr. Gould.

Belgrade, le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Mai*, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

JE crois devoir appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur les événements déplorables qui se sont produits au sud-ouest de la Principauté pendant l'interruption des travaux de la Commission Internationale chargée de délimiter la nouvelle frontière de Serbie.

Votre Excellence pourra ainsi se convaincre de la nécessité impérieuse de prendre certaines mesures pour que ces travaux portent le résultat utile et fécond que l'Europe en attend, à savoir: le maintien assuré de la paix générale, et plus spécialement, la pacification de l'Orient.

Votre Excellence n'ignore pas que le territoire Serbe a été envahi le $\frac{6}{18}$ Avril, par des bandes Albanaises. Cette invasion avait été précédée d'une innombrable série d'attaques partielles et d'actes de brigandage commis par des troupes Albanaises.

Le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas manqué de porter ces actes à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte au fur et à mesure qu'ils se produisaient; elle ne lui a pas laissé ignorer les dommages considérables qui en résultaient pour la population Serbe, et néanmoins, nous n'avons pu obtenir pour nos nationaux ni l'indemnité que leur était si légitimement due, ni même la restitution du bétail ou des objets enlevés.

A l'approche du printemps ces actes de brigandage se sont renouvelés sur une plus vaste échelle, et comme nous avions des raisons de craindre une véritable invasion, nous en avons avisé la Sublime Porte, en la priant de conjurer cette fâcheuse éventualité par l'envoi des troupes régulières suffisantes pour maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité dans ces parages.

La Sublime Porte refusa de tenir compte de nos avertissements. Son Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Carathéodory Pacha, répondit au Ministre de Serbie à Constantinople dans sa note du 17 Avril, 1879, que les craintes d'invasion exprimées par le Gouvernement Serbe n'avaient aucun fondement.

Croyant pouvoir se reposer sur cette assurance, le Gouvernement Princier s'abstint, contrairement à ses intentions premières, de renforcer la garde de nos frontières.

C'est dans ce sentiment de sécurité que nous vivions, sur la foi du Gouvernement Ottoman, quand nous fûmes, à l'improviste, l'objet d'une invasion beaucoup plus sérieuse que les précédentes.

Quinze cents hommes environ, armés pour la plupart de fusils Martini-Henri, procédèrent à une attaque régulière de notre frontière, qui n'était défendue que par des postes de quinze à vingt soldats.

Plusieurs villages furent saccagés; tout fut pillé, enlevé sur la route de Prischtina à Kourchoumlia, et un grand nombre d'habitants furent massacrés. Un des blessés tombé entre les mains des envahisseurs a été retrouvé enduit de pétrole et brûlé vif.

Mon intention n'est point d'insister sur les détails de ces douloureux incidents. Je me borne à constater que l'invasion fut vite repoussée. Mais je désire soumettre ces faits à l'appréciation de votre haut Gouvernement, pour démontrer la nécessité et indiquer le moyen d'en prévenir le retour.

Il est malheureusement évident qu'on sera toujours exposé à de semblables conflits, si la frontière Serbo-Turque n'est pas établie dans des conditions différentes de ce qu'elles sont depuis que, conformément au Traité de Berlin, les troupes Serbes ont évacué la Vallée du Lab et la contrée au-dessous de Vranja.

Pour mettre un terme aux incursions Albanaises il me paraît indispensable de modifier la direction de la frontière du côté de Vranja, et d'établir le reste de nos lignes en face de la Turquie dans des conditions de défense moins inquiétantes.

La ligne tracée l'an dernier par la Commission Internationale laisse en effet sans protection la ville de Vranja, qui est le centre d'un commerce prospère. La plupart des villages qui alimentent ce commerce ont été séparés de Vranja et rendus à la Turquie. D'autres ont été partagés entre les deux Etats et renferment à l'heure qu'il est des habitants dont les biens sont situés sur les deux territoires. Enfin, sur plusieurs points la frontière est seulement à 10 et même à 5 kilomètres de Vranja (chef-lieu de département), qui reste ainsi exposé aux attaques de voisins turbulents et agressifs, attaques malheureusement trops faciles, eu égard à la disposition du terrain et à la configuration de la nouvelle frontière.

Sans ces mesures de précaution je suis profondément convaincu que nous aurons à lutter sans trêve ni repos contre cette population indisciplinée qui ni se résigne pas à accepter les faits accomplis. Elle a des ramifications bien au delà de la frontière jusqu'à Ipek, Diakovitza, Prisren, et Skoplié, puisque toutes ces localités ont fourni leur contingent à l'invasion du $\frac{6}{18}$ Avril.

La Serbie désire ardemment vivre en bonne harmonie avec tous ces voisins. Elle sent qu'elle a besoin de la paix, et elle s'attachera à la maintenir autour d'elle. Les dispositions de la population sont à cet égard conformes à celles du Gouvernement Princier, et la Serbie serait heureuse et reconnaissante que l'intervention des Hautes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin la dispensât de soutenir sur ses confins une lutte incessante, qui pourrait prendre à un moment donné des proportions regrettables, et entraîner des conséquences sérieuses.

Loin de nous l'intention de demander un nouvel accroissement de territoire. Le Gouvernement Princier a accepté sans aucune arrière-pensée les décisions du Congrès de Berlin, et il s'y conformera fidèlement. Mais c'est précisément pour affermir l'état de choses créé par le Congrès que nous osons demander au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Royale de nous placer vis-à-vis de la Turquie dans de meilleures conditions de défense.

Ce but serait facilement atteint si la Commission Internationale actuellement en fonctions était autorisée à réviser son travail de l'an dernier, en rendant à la Serbie du côté de Vranja, entre Babina-Sora et Polianitza, les points de défense indispensables à sa sécurité, et en traçant vers le nord-ouest jusqu'au Canilong une ligne qui asseoie la défense de notre territoire sur une base plus solide, surtout du côté de Propolatz.

Je suis persuadé qui les Commissaires Internationaux chargés de résoudre cette question reconnaitraient la justesse parfaite des considérations que je prends la liberté de soumettre à votre Excellence, ces Commissaires ayant déjà pu se rendre compte par eux-mêmes de la réalité du péril que je signale.

J'ose espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Royale, qui a toujours couvert de sa protection les intérêts légitimes de la Serbie, voudra bien donner à la Princi-

pauté ce nouveau témoignage de sa précieuse sympathie. Cette démarche contribuera d'ailleurs puissamment à assurer la pacification complète de l'Orient, qui a été le constant objet de la sollicitude de Sa Majesté.

Je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTICH.

No. 113.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 469.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 5, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs trusts that Her Majesty's Government will not agree to the proposal that the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia shall consult the Commission as to calling in Turkish troops, and be bound to act upon its advice whether given unanimously or by a majority. He says there would be a direct infringement of the Treaty of Berlin, and a limitation to the authority of the Sultan, which could only lead to serious consequences. It is for the Governor-General to decide upon the necessity of calling in troops, and he should not be allowed to avoid responsibility by shielding himself behind the Commission. His Excellency believes that the Russian attempt to give a voice in all questions to the Commission, is part of a scheme to destroy the authority of the Sultan, and to make it appear that Eastern Roumelia is a semi-independent Bulgarian province. The Porte is exceedingly displeased with the conduct of Aleko Pasha, whom it accuses of lending himself to this scheme.

Minister for Foreign Affairs is very anxious that Commission should not be dissolved until Russian evacuation is completed, as he thinks that there would be danger in leaving Aleko Pasha facility to (?) with the Russians and Bulgarians.

He much regrets that Wolff is going to leave, and that Michell is to act in his place, as he has hitherto refused to yield to pressure of the Russian Ambassador to give Prince Tzeretelew an exequatur on the ground that he could not fill the two offices of Consul-General and Commissioner.

No. 114.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 470.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 5, 1879.*

GERMAN Ambassador has communicated to the Porte protest addressed by his Government to the Khedive. He has likewise received instructions to support French Chargé d'Affaires in asking the Porte to name Commissioners to treat on Greek frontier.

No. 115.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 5, 1879.*

I HEAR that in the formation of the Governor's Chancery Grizenco has been omitted on the ground of there being no place sufficiently paid for him.

No. 116.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 213. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 5, 1879.*

AT to-day's sitting Austrian Commissioner said he had received instructions in the sense telegraphed by me yesterday in No. 211. I stated my instructions were analogous, and asked whether the Commission would now discuss my three proposals. M. Ring said he had no instructions, but had heard accidentally from Constantinople that the Porte was inclined to take his view. The Turks had no instructions. Prince Tzeretelew said that as all the Commissioners were not instructed the discussion on my proposals could not take place.

The Turks are anxious to be instructed in sense of Austrian Commissioner and myself. They say all Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had told them was to take the same course as myself.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 117.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)

(No. 214. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 5, 1879.*

AUSTRIAN Commissioner to-day said to Consul-General and myself that if Sultan acted wisely he would tell Governor-General to make himself an independent Prince of Eastern Roumelia. This evening Governor-General repeated to me a statement of the Austrian Commissioners that Austria desired him to be as independent as possible.

Vitalis informs Consul-General that though nominally 12,000 are on the lists of militia, documentary evidence has only been given of 8,000, and he believes in reality there are only 6,000. A saving of 200,000 roubles has thus accumulated in hands of Kesiakoff, who says he will only give it up to Emperor of Russia, to whom it belongs.

No. 118.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 6, 1879, midnight.*

YOUR No. 469. I think the Porte had better not raise the question of whether the Commission shall be required to give its consent to the summons of Ottoman troops, as this question is not at present likely to arise. But its present view is scarcely consistent with the Circular of March 31.

No. 119.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 770.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 469 of yesterday's date, stating that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has expressed to you his hope that Her Majesty's Government will not agree to the proposal that the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia shall consult the European Commission as to the expediency in any case of calling Turkish troops into the interior of the province, and that he shall be bound to act upon the advice given by the Commission upon this point, whether such advice be the result of a unanimous resolution or of a vote of the majority. His Excellency appears to consider that the responsibility of this step should rest entirely with the Governor.

I have informed you, in reply, that in my opinion the Porte would do wisely to

abstain from raising the question whether the consent of the Commission shall be requisite before Ottoman troops can be summoned into the interior of the province. It does not seem probable that the occasion for such a measure will arise for the present.

It is difficult, however, to reconcile the view now taken by the Porte with Carathéodory Pasha's Circular of the 31st March last, in which his Excellency proposed "la prolongation des pouvoirs de la Commission pendant un an et la présence de ce corps dans la province pour aider le Vali, par des délibérations prises à la majorité des voix, à mettre pendant ce temps à exécution la nouvelle organisation;" and in which he further expressed the willingness of the Turkish Government to leave the administration of the province in the hands of a "Lieutenant du Vali" during the time that the Commission was prolonged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 120.

Captain Sale, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Scutari, Albania, May 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have yesterday sent to your Lordship a telegram consisting of a rendering in cypher of an English translation of the annexed French original (Annexe A), with certain remarks added, the substance of which will be found in this despatch.

I do not myself altogether agree with the wording of the telegram, and would have preferred reporting the matter to your Lordship in a written despatch, giving the facts at greater length than is possible by telegraph; but, as I concur with the other Commissioners as regards the meaning conveyed, it did not appear desirable for me to separate myself from them on a question of wording only.

The facts of the case are as follows: To avoid losing time whilst waiting for a decision in the matter of the Island of Gorica Topal, it was decided to take advantage of the partial subsidence of the inundation, and to make a reconnaissance of a purely topographical nature in the direction of the Podgoritza plain, with a view to sketching the country, and making a preliminary survey.

This was duly reported to the Governor-General of Scutari and the Montenegrin authorities, in order that the usual arrangements might be made for facilitating the work.

The Governor-General called on the President of the Commission, and, in the course of conversation, mentioned a desire that the members of the Commission should not enter the Turkish military posts to be found on the low hills which rise out of the Podgoritza plain. The President replied that the Commission had no wish to enter the Turkish posts, but that it would in any case be necessary, from a technical point of view, for the topographical officers to visit the highest points of the hillocks, even if that would involve their entering the Turkish posts.

On Thursday, the 22nd instant, the Commission went from Scutari to Hüm (on south-east corner of of the plain), and, on ascending the hill at Hüm, were informed that they could not be permitted to visit the summit of the hill, as it was occupied by a Turkish military post.

This matter was, however, arranged through the intervention of the Turkish Commissioner, the local authorities giving way.

With a view to prevent the recurrence of such an incident, Riza Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner, gave orders to the Commanders of the military posts situated on the adjoining hillocks not to oppose the topographical officers of the Commission in visiting the tops of the hills.

Next morning, on commencing work (Riza Pasha having returned to Scutari, leaving Bedri Bey, Adjoint Commissioner, as Turkish topographical officer), the Commandant of the district, Hadji Osman Pasha, informed the topographical officers that he could not permit them to visit the summits of the hillocks, as they were fortified.

This refusal was maintained, although the Turkish Adjoint Commissioner, Bedri Bey, who is also Colonel d'Etat Majeur, stated exactly what had happened the previous day, and offered to take on himself any responsibility as regards entering the military posts.

The topographical officers, including myself, the Russian and Italian Commissioners, and the Austrian, Turkish, and Montenegrin Adjoint Commissioners, and Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., pointed out that all that we desired was to visit certain points necessary, from a technical point of view, to our work, and engaged to take no notes or sketches of any part of the so-called works.

The refusal was, however, maintained.

On this the topographical Commissioners decided to suspend further operations, their work being rendered impracticable by the action of the military authorities, and, as there were no means of telegraphic communication, they returned to Scutari the same day.

The Turkish military posts to which we were refused admission consisted merely of ordinary camps, surrounded by a slight dry stone breastwork perfectly visible from below; and, speaking as a military engineer officer, I can state that the military reason urged for the refusal of access was a mere pretext.

The general features of the country were such that the Turkish military authorities must have recognized the necessity for our gaining the summits of the hillocks for survey purposes, even if they had not the distinct assurance of their own staff officer to that effect.

It has been ascertained that the District Commandant acted in this matter under the express orders of the Governor-General of Scutari, the Governor-General himself having visited the spot after the Commission had notified its intention to make the reconnaissance, and two days before its actual visit.

At a meeting of the Commission held yesterday it was decided that each Commissioner should send an identical telegram to his Government setting forth the facts of the case. It is this telegram that I have yesterday sent to your Lordship.

I stated at the meeting that I only assented to the telegram because I felt convinced that the opposition we have experienced is due entirely to the local authorities, and that I felt sure that the Porte, which had always aided the work of the other Boundary Commissions, had no cognizance of the opposition offered in this case.

The Governor-General of Scutari has communicated to the Commission an explanation of his action in this matter (see Annexe B), but it is not possible to accept the statement contained in the second paragraph of this explanation, as it directly traverses the statement made by the President of the Commission (see Protocol No. 10 annexed) on a matter of fact.

I would not venture to give any opinion as to the action of the Governor-General, having myself so recently arrived here, if I had not had the advantage of discussing the matter with Mr. Kirby Green; but, basing my opinion on his, and having regard to what has taken place since the Commission first met, there appears to me to be little or no doubt but that this interruption of the labours of the Commission was intentional, and forms a part of a prearranged plant to arrest the work of demarcation, and to prevent the settlement of the Frontier question.

Hussein Pasha, the Governor-General, is, as I am informed, an able, energetic, and patriotic officer, but the particular form taken by his patriotism, viz., intriguing to regain territory lost to Turkey by the Treaty, is hardly consistent with an immediate settlement of the new frontiers.

I would venture to add that there seems to me but little chance of the Commission being able to do its work as long as the Governor-General remains here, and, whilst professing to assist, is really working against us, with a view to delaying or even entirely stopping the work of demarcation.

It is for this cause that I have joined the other Commissioners in the action taken in this matter, even at the risk of appearing to exaggerate the importance of the incident.

I have also the honour to inclose Protocols Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Protocol No. 9 contains the proposition made by the Austrian Commissioner with reference to a compromise in the matter of Goussingé-Plava, alluded to in my telegram of the 24th instant, and Protocol No. 10 contains the discussion of the incident mentioned in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E., Commissioner.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 120.

Captain Sale, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.

(Télégraphique.)

A LA suite d'un grave incident, la Commission est tombée d'accord que chaque Commissaire enverrait le télégramme suivant à son Gouvernement:—

"Hier, 23 Mai, dans une reconnaissance préliminaire entre le lac et Podgoritza, les Commissaires chargés des travaux ont été arrêtés par l'opposition formelle et absolue de l'autorité militaire Turque.

"Elle s'est refusée à les laisser monter sur certains points indispensables à leurs opérations parce qu'ils étaient fortifiés, bien que ces points se trouvent dans une zone encore indéterminée.

"Cependant la veille, sur le terrain, et en présence de tous les membres de la Commission, le Commissaire Ottoman avait, sur la demande du Président de la Commission, fourni l'assurance formelle que des ordres étaient donnés pour que les Commissaires fussent libres d'opérer partout où ils le jugeraient nécessaire.

"La Commission a le regret de voir là nullement un malentendu, mais la conséquence d'une disposition générale qu'elle a pu constater dès le commencement, et qui paraît ne viser qu'à rendre sa tâche impossible.

"En présence de cette situation, qui l'atteint dans l'attitude qu'elle tient des Hautes Puissances qu'elle représente, la Commission déclare que sans une satisfaction prompte et exemplaire atteignant toute personne à qui remonterait la responsabilité des faits signalés, la continuation de sa tâche ne peut avoir lieu."

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Declaration of the Turkish Commissioners.

A LA suite des éclaircissements donnés par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, les Commissaires Ottomans déclarent:—

1. Que l'ordre défendant l'accès des fortifications n'a pas été donné récemment dans le but d'entraver les travaux de la Commission: c'est une mesure militaire générale, mise en vigueur de tous temps.

2. Que dans la conversation qui a eu lieu entre M. le Comte Ceccaldi et son Excellence Hussein Pacha, ce dernier n'a pas interprété les paroles de M. Ceccaldi dans le sens que la Commission fût dans la nécessité absolu d'entrer dans les fortifications. Si ce malentendu ne s'était pas produit, son Excellence Hussein Pacha aurait autorisé la Commission à entrer dans les dites fortifications, sauf à en être informé quatre jours d'avance.

3. Que même en voulant envoyer des ordres à Touzi après le départ de son Excellence Riza Pacha, le temps matériel aurait manqué pour les faire parvenir, vu le retour précipité de la Commission.

4. Dans l'état de la question, son Excellence Hussein Pacha autorise la Commission pour le présent et l'avenir à entrer dans les positions militaires des troupes de la division de Scutari, chaque fois que besoin sera, à condition que le dit Hussein Pacha soit informé quatre jours d'avance du désir de la Commission.

5. Devant ces déclarations les Commissaires Ottomans pensent que la protestation dont il a été question n'a plus sa raison d'être, attendu qu'aucune entrave n'existe plus au libre travail de la Commission, et que le regrettable incident de Hilin ne pourra en aucune façon se reproduire à l'avenir.

Inclosure 3 in No. 120.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No. 5.—Séance du 10 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjutant Major Tahri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LE Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président donne lecture de la réponse du Gouverneur-Général à la lettre que la Commission lui avait adressé en date du 3 Mai courant, et connaître que son Excellence a complété les dispositions nécessaires en ce qui concerne le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman pour assurer la sécurité de la Commission.

Cette communication est déposée aux archives.

Le Président communique ensuite un télégramme de la Sublime Porte à son Excellence Riza Pacha, ainsi conçu: "Constantinople, 8 Mai. Reçu télégramme en date du 8. Votre Excellence voudra bien attendre les instructions ultérieures, nous avons saisi qui de droit de la question que soulève l'erreur de la Carte Autrichienne."

Le Président demande si la Commission a quelque observation à faire au sujet de la question importante que soulève ce télégramme.

Le Capitaine Sale désire connaître si la Commission partira Lundi prochain et si MM. les Commissaires Ottomans comptent partir en même temps. *Son Excellence Riza Pacha* déclare que dans l'état des choses il lui serait impossible de partir Lundi.

Le Baron Kaulbars propose aux Commissaires Ottomans d'envoyer un Délégué qui assisterait aux travaux sans y prendre part.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha répond qu'il ne saurait envoyer un Délégué avant d'avoir reçu d'autres instructions.

Le Président constate qu'en présence de cette déclaration la Commission se trouve devant l'alternative suivante: attendre la décision de la Sublime Porte ou continuer les travaux.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi est d'avis qu'il est impossible de continuer les travaux sans la présence de l'une des deux parties intéressées.

M. Lippich considère qu'il est indispensable que chaque Commissaire porte à la connaissance de son Gouvernement un cas imprévu qui, en se renouvelant, pourrait compromettre l'avenir des travaux de la Commission. La responsabilité des Commissaires serait ainsi couverte.

Le Président met aux voix la question suivante: "Devant la déclaration de

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, la Commission peut-elle continuer ses travaux sur le terrain?"

A la majorité de 6 voix contre 1 (celle de M. le Commissaire Monténégrin, M. le Commissaire Ottoman s'étant abstenu) la Commission décide qu'elle ne peut continuer ses travaux sur le terrain.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi juge utile, afin d'éviter à l'avenir le renouvellement d'un semblable retard, que les Commissaires demandent à leurs Gouvernements respectifs des instructions qui permettraient la continuation des travaux dans des cas analogues.

Pszenny Effendi croit que la question du Commissaire Italien pourra se résoudre avec plus d'efficacité après l'arrivée des instructions de la Sublime Porte.

Le Baron Kaulbars désirerait connaître la base de cette opinion.

Pszenny Effendi, au nom de Riza Pacha, fait connaître que son Excellence espère que les instructions qui parviendront aux Commissaires Ottomans trancheront une question de principe dont la solution définitive écartera à l'avenir toute difficulté du même genre.

Le Baron Kaulbars propose de continuer la discussion sur le passage de la nouvelle ligne-frontière près de Gorica-Topal.

Le Commissaire de France est d'avis que la situation dans laquelle se trouve la Commission ne permet pas la discussion proposée.

La Commission décide qu'une Sous-Commission, composée de MM. le Colonel Kaulbars, les Capitaines Sale et Sauerwald sera chargée de présenter à la prochaine séance un projet d'organisation du service pour les travaux topographiques.

La séance est levée à 11 heures du soir.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe au Protocole No. 5.

Scutari, le 9 Mai, 1879.

M. le Président,

En réponse à la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'écrire en date du 3 courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer, M. le Président, que les dispositions nécessaires, en ce qui concerne le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, ont été complétées pour assurer la sécurité de la Commission Européenne pour la délimitation du Monténégro.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Gouverneur-Général et Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) HUSSEIN.

M. le Comte C. Ceccaldi,
Président de la Commission Européenne pour la
Délimitation du Monténégro, &c., &c., Scutari.

Inclosure 4 in No. 120.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No. 6.—Séance du 12 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tabri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LE Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président donne lecture de la proposition faite par la Sous-Commission nommée dans la dite séance, sur l'organisation d'un service topographique.

Cette proposition (Annexe 1) est acceptée à l'unanimité dans les conditions suivantes: "MM. le Baron Kaulbars, le Capitaine Sale, le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey, ou à son défaut l'Adjutant-Major Tabri Bey, et M. Nico Matanovich sont désignés pour faire les croquis nécessaires. M. le Capitaine Sauerwald est chargé de l'exécution d'un croquis général dans les conditions indiquées dans la pièce annexe."

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité la proposition suivante de M. le Commissaire de France; chaque fois que la Commission aura, en séance, adopté un point ou une ligne du tracé de la nouvelle frontière, ce vote sera transcrit sur un registre spécial, en un ou plusieurs paragraphes, accompagnés des croquis explicatifs, le tout signé par les Commissaires. Ce registre spécial, coordonné à la fin des travaux, servira de base à la rédaction de l'acte diplomatique, établissant le tracé de la nouvelle frontière.

MM. le Colonel Kaulbars, le Capitaine Sale, et le Capitaine Sauerwald demandent à être autorisés par la Commission à faire au premier jour une reconnaissance préliminaire du terrain entre la rive occidentale du lac et la crête en face le point Gorica-Topal de la Carte Autrichienne.

La discussion s'engage à ce sujet.

Riza Pacha déclare que cette question lui paraît dépasser ses pouvoirs, après l'attitude prise par lui dans la séance tenante, et qu'il y aurait lieu à en référer au Gouverneur-Général pour les questions de sécurité qu'elle peut soulever.

Chacun des autres membres, interrogé par le Président, se prononce dans le sens de l'autorisation demandée.

Le Commissaire de France dit que, si, à l'occasion de questions aussi simples que celle de la reconnaissance proposée, les travaux de la Commission devaient rencontrer l'opposition de l'une ou l'autre des parties intéressées, il ne resterait plus qu'à se demander si la Commission doit poser la question de sa dissolution. Il ne croit pas qu'il y ait agitation réelle chez les populations, et il est convaincu qu'avec le loyal

concours des deux Gouvernements intéressés, aucune agitation ne compromettra la sécurité des travaux sur le terrain. Il est donc d'avis que la Commission se propose d'abord sur la question d'autoriser la reconnaissance proposée par les trois Commissaires sus-nommés, et qu'ensuite elle porte sa décision à la connaissance du Gouverneur-Général Commandant-en-chef de la province.

La motion ainsi présentée, est soumise au vote.

M. le Commissaire Ottoman vote contre la reconnaissance, les autres Commissaires sont tous d'avis de l'autoriser.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne formule son vote en ajoutant, "à condition que les autorités représentant la Sublime Porte à Scutari ne fassent pas d'opposition."

M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi et *M. le Consul-Général Lippich* font observer que la Commission ne pourrait admettre que les décisions sur les travaux dépendent de l'approbation des pays intéressés.

Le Président dit qu'il est bien entendu qu'il ne saurait être question pour les décisions relatives aux travaux de la Commission de demander l'autorisation aux autorités des pays limitrophes; la Commission possède un droit propre qu'elle tient d'un mandat Européen, et ses décisions sur les travaux à faire ne relèvent que d'elle. La Commission informe les autorités locales de ses résolutions, sans les leur soumettre; ces autorités peuvent alors, au point de vue de leur responsabilité personnelle, présenter des observations que la Commission apprécie. C'est cette marche que le Commissaire de France a en vue en proposant que la Commission prît une décision et la portât à la connaissance de son Excellence Hussein Pacha.

M. le Baron Kaulbars dit que pour son compte il ne pensait pas qu'une proposition qui ne peut engager en rien les discussions futures de la Commission sur le tracé définitif, soulevât d'objections.

M. le Capitaine Sauerwald répond aux objections de M. le Commissaire Ottoman que la reconnaissance dont il s'agit n'est pas de nature à préjuger en rien la question de la ligne-frontière à établir par la Commission, mais qu'elle a tout simplement le but d'utiliser le temps et de fournir à la Commission, le cas échéant, un travail préliminaire et préparatoire qui pourra lui faciliter essentiellement ses études ultérieures.

M. le Consul-Général Lippich s'associe entièrement aux vues du Capitaine Sauerwald.

La motion est mise au vote dans ces termes: "MM. le Colonel Baron Kaulbars, les Capitaines Sale et Sauerwald ayant demandé à être autorisés au nom de la Commission, à faire au premier jour une reconnaissance préliminaire sans rien préjuger, et afin d'utiliser le temps, du terrain entre la rive occidentale du lac et la crête en face le point Gorica-Topal de la Carte Autrichienne, la Commission autorise-t-elle cette excursion?"

La motion est adoptée par 7 voix contre 1 (celle de M. le Commissaire Ottoman).

Une lettre officielle reproduisant les termes de cette motion est adressée séance tenante à son Excellence Hussein Pasha, pour le prier de vouloir bien faciliter par les moyens en son pouvoir la reconnaissance décidée.

La séance est levée à minuit.

MM. les Commissaires seront ultérieurement convoqués lorsque le Président aura reçu la réponse de son Excellence Hussein Pacha.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 6.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'ai l'honneur, au nom de la Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro, de faire part à votre Excellence du vote suivant émis aujourd'hui à la majorité de 7 voix contre 1 (celle de M. le Commissaire Ottoman):

MM. le Colonel Baron Kaulbars, les Capitaines Sale et Sauerwald, ayant demandé à être autorisés à faire au premier jour une reconnaissance préliminaire, sans rien préjuger et afin d'utiliser le temps, du terrain entre la rive occidentale du lac et la crête en face le point Gorica-Topal de la Carte Autrichienne, la Commission autorise cette excursion.

En vous communiquant cette décision, M. le Gouverneur-Général, je viens vous prier, au nom de la Commission, de vouloir bien faciliter par les moyens en votre pouvoir, l'excursion de ces Commissaires, dont le jour sera demain probablement.

Je serai reconnaissant à votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire connaître sa réponse dans le délai le plus rapproché possible.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président de la Commission,
(Signé) COLONNA CECCALDI.

Son Excellence Hussein Pacha,
Gouverneur-Général et Commandant-en-chef, Scutari.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 6.

La Sous-Commission pour les travaux topographiques, composée de

MM. Le Capitaine Sauerwald,
Le Capitaine Sale, et
Le Colonel Baron Kaulbars I,

ayant examiné le mode de pourvoir aux besoins cartographiques de la Commission, propose:

1. Les trois officiers nommés, avec les topographes qui se trouvent à leur disposition, feront les croquis nécessaires.

2. Le même jour tous les croquis seront comparés entre eux et remis au Capitaine Sauerwald.

3. M. le Capitaine Sauerwald se charge de la rédaction d'un croquis, composé de tous les autres, qui sera rédigé à l'échelle de $\frac{1}{50000}$; soit: 1 centimètre équivalent à 500 mètres ou à $\frac{1}{2}$ kilomètre; signé par les trois membres de la Sous-Commission, et remis à la Commission pour être annexé aux protocoles.

(Signé) W. SAUERWALD.
Baron KAULBARS I.
M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 120.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No. 7.—Séance du 13 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjutant Major Tabri Bey,
M. le Pszenny Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures du soir.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président communique une lettre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de Scutari,* en date du 12 Mai, qui met à la disposition de MM. le Colonel Baron Kaulbars, les Capitaines Sale et Sauerwald, un bateau à vapeur pour faciliter leur excursion sur le lac.

M. le Capitaine Sale présente à la Commission M. le Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., comme Commissaire Adjoint pour la Grande Bretagne: ses pouvoirs sont trouvés en bonne et due forme.

Le Président constate que l'ordre du jour est épuisé et lève la séance à 10 heures du soir.

Fait à Scutari, le 13 Mai, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

* Voir Annexe au présent Protocole.

Annexe au Protocole No. 7.

Gouvernement-Général Scutari d'Albanie.

M. le Président,

Répondant à la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'écrire en date d'aujourd'hui, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je viens de donner les dispositions nécessaires pour mettre à la disposition de MM. le Colonel Kaulbars, les Capitaines Sale et Sauerwald, le bateau à vapeur pour leur faciliter l'excursion sur le lac.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur-Général et Commandant-en-chef,
(Signé) HUSSEIN.

M. le Comte Colonna Ceccaldi,
Consul-Général de France, et Président de la Commission
Européenne pour la Délimitation de Monténégro, Scutari.

Inclosure 6 in No. 120.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No 8.—Séance du 19 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tabri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures et demie du matin.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

L'ordre du jour n'appelle aucune question.

Le Commissaire de France demande à son Excellence Riza Pacha s'il a reçu quelque communication au sujet de Plawa-Goussinjé.

Riza Pacha déclare qu'il n'a pas encore reçu d'instruction à cet égard.

Le Président donne lecture de la proposition suivante, présenté par M. le Consul-Général Lippich: "M. le Président, ayant interpellé M. le Général Riza Pacha relativement à la question de Plawa-Goussinjé, et M. le Premier Commissaire Ottoman ayant déclaré qu'il n'avait rien à communiquer qui ait trait à cette question qui, cependant, forme un des points les plus importants dont la Commission aura à s'occuper, M. le Commissaire de l'Autriche-Hongrie à l'honneur de proposer que cette question-là soit mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, en se réservant de

soumettre à l'appréciation de MM. ses collègues quelques considérations, qui, à son avis, pourraient contribuer à en faciliter la solution."

Le Baron Kaulbars, reconnaissant l'importance de la question du Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, désire que la discussion en ait lieu dans le plus bref délai.

La Commission prend acte de la proposition et décide qu'elle sera mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée à Mercredi, 21 Mai.

M. Le Colonel Ottolenghi propose de faire une reconnaissance préliminaire entre le lac de Scutari et Podgoritza, sur le terrain par où passera la nouvelle ligne-frontière. Il est entendu que la reconnaisance en question ne préjugera en rien le tracé définitif.

Le Capitaine Sale adhère à la proposition du Commissaire Italien.

Riza Pacha pense que cette excursion pourrait être utile.

Après discussion, la Commission décide que la reconnaissance aura lieu Jeudi, 22 Mai.

La séance est levée à 11 heures et demie.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Inclosure 7 in No. 120.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No. 9.—Séance du 21 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovich.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tahri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi,

LA séance est ouverte à 9 heures du matin.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Baron Kaulbars présente le Lieutenant Kadouchkievich, du corps des topographes, qui lui est adjoint pour les travaux topographiques ; ses pouvoirs sont trouvés en bonne et due forme.

Le Président désire savoir si quelque Commissaire a reçu de son Gouvernement des instructions au sujet de la continuation des travaux sur le terrain.

Le *Baron Kaulbars* prie le Président de vouloir bien demander au Commissaire Ottoman s'il a reçu les instructions réclamés au sujet de l'interruption des travaux par l'incident de Gorica-Topal.

Riza Pacha répond qu'il n'a pas encore reçu d'instructions.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Italie, et du Monténégro déclarent la même chose.

Le *Baron Kaulbars* dit qu'il a reçu de son Gouvernement des instructions qu'il croit devoir communiquer dans la séance qui suivra l'excursion projetée. Pour que la discussion qui en résultera puisse avoir un caractère pratique, il demande à ses collègues s'ils ne croiraient pas utile de solliciter de nouveau des instructions de leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

La parole est donnée à *M. le Consul-Général Lippich*, qui soumet à la Commission quelques considérations sur la question de Goussinjé-Plawa, portée à l'ordre du jour.*

La discussion s'ouvre sur les considérations de M. Le Consul-Général Lippich, qui prie le Président de vouloir bien demander aux parties intéressées qu'elle se prononcent sur la question de Plawa-Goussinjé.

Riza Pacha répond qu'à son grand regret il ne saurait donner à la Commission aucun éclaircissement sur cette grave question.

M. Popovic présente une note exposant les démarches faites depuis le mois d'Août de l'année dernière par le Gouvernement Monténégrin pour obtenir du Gouvernement Ottoman la remise officielle des territoires cédés par le Congrès au Monténégro.†

Le Président constate que dans l'état il n'y a pas lieu d'espérer une prompte solution de la question. Il demande à M. Lippich de quelle manière la Commission pourrait agir par voie diplomatique pour obtenir le résultat désiré.

M. le Consul-Général Lippich croit qu'une action collective de la Commission près les Gouvernements respectifs atteindrait ce but.

Le Capitaine Sale croit qu'avant de se prononcer sur la question il faudrait prendre des informations exactes auprès des autorités locales, sur l'état actuel de Plawa-Goussinjé. Il faudrait demander les opinions des Consuls de Scutari ainsi que celle du Commissaire de Monténégro.

Riza Pasha dit que les autorités de Scutari n'ont pas de relations avec Goussinjé ; il ne trouve aucune difficulté à ce que les renseignements requis soient demandés à qui de droit.

Le Commissaire de France dit que d'après ses informations le district de Plawa-Goussinjé est dans un état d'anarchie complète. Le nommé Ali Pacha, qui jouit d'une grande influence dans le pays, y gouverne au moyen d'un Conseil composé exclusivement de Musulmans. Sur 3,000 hommes en état de porter les armes, à peine 300 sont armés de fusils à charge par la culasse ; tous les autres ont des fusils à capsules. Le district communique uniquement avec le Vilayet de Kossovo par Ipek et Jakova. La population Slave Orthodoxe a été désarmée un certain temps, et est quotidiennement maltraitée, pillée, et tyrannisée.

Pszenny Effendi croit que ces expressions sont un peu exagérées, vu que les faits qu'elles qualifient ne sont pas prouvés.

Les informations des Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, du Monténégro, et de Russie se rapprochent sensiblement de celles de M. le Commissaire de France.

Le Capitaine Sale dit que quant à lui il n'a pas d'information à ce sujet, mais que si la Commission est d'avis, d'après les informations qu'elle a prise, que le district de Goussinjé-Plawa est dans un état d'anarchie, il serait utile d'en prendre acte dans le Protocole de la séance.

La Commission donne acte de son opinion conforme.

M. Lippich croit savoir que les habitants de Goussinjé-Plawa se sont préparés à la résistance dès qu'ils ont appris la réunion de la Commission.

Le Baron Kaulbars est d'avis qu'en coupant les communications d'Ipek et de Djakowa, le district de Plawa-Goussinjé se rendrait sans coup férir.

Le Capitaine Sale désire que l'on informe les Gouvernements respectifs de l'état dans lequel se trouve actuellement le district de Plawa-Goussinjé.

Après discussion, la Commission rédige séance tenante une note à son Excellence

* Voir Annexe 1 au pré-ent Protocole.
† Voir Annexe 2 au présent Protocole.

Hussein Pacha, et au Vali de Kossovo, Nazif Pacha, à communiquer par l'intermédiaire de son Excellence Riza Pacha, pour demander des informations exactes sur la situation de Plawa-Goussinjé. La même note est transmise au Commissaire du Monténégro.

Le Président, continuant l'examen des deuxième et troisième paragraphes des considérations du Commissaire Austro-Hongrois, demande à la Commission si elle se croit autorisée à discuter un projet de compromis entre les parties intéressés, dans le cas où la remise officielle de Plawa-Goussinjé ne pourrait se faire.

Le Commissaire d'Italie dit qu'il ne le croit pas dans les attributions de la Commission de traiter ces questions.

Les Commissaires de Turquie, de la Grande Bretagne, de France, et *du Monténégro* déclarent que leurs instructions ne leur permettent pas de discuter le projet susmentionné.

A la suite des déclarations de MM. les Commissaires de France, de la Grande Bretagne, de Turquie, du Monténégro, et d'Halie, *le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie* demande s'il doit considérer sa proposition comme écartée.

M. le Commissaire de France pense que la discussion sera seulement suspendue jusqu'à réception d'instructions qui lui permettront de s'associer à cette discussion.

Les Commissaires de Turquie et *du Monténégro* font la même déclaration.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne dit qu'il demandera des instructions *ad hoc*.

Le Capitaine Testa prendra part à la discussion lorsque les parties intéressées seront d'accord sur son opportunité.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche et *de Russie* se déclarent autorisés à discuter des projets de compromis dont il est question.

Le Capitaine Sale annonce qu'il a reçu pendant la séance un télégramme de son Gouvernement, en date du 20 Mai, par lequel il est autorisé à appuyer le vœu suivant, émis par la Porte: "de continuer la délimitation de la frontière Monténégrine entre Megured-Kalimed et la mer, et que la partie que se trouve près de Gorica-Topal soit réservée à une décision ultérieure, la Commission, prenant note de ce fait dans un Protocole. La Commission pourrait alors continuer ses travaux entre Kalimed-Megured et la mer."

Le *Commissaire Ottoman* interrogé, déclare qu'il n'a pas encore reçu de communication en ce sens.

Le *Baron Kaulbars* fait la déclaration suivante:

"A la suite du télégramme que vient de nous communiquer le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, je voudrais changer la résolution prise au commencement de la séance, et communiquer, sans attendre la prochaine séance, que d'après les instructions que je viens de recevoir, les travaux de la Commission devraient se poursuivre même dans le cas où la minorité s'abstiendrait d'y prendre part."

Acte est donné de cette communication à la Commission.

La séance est levée à midi et demie.

La prochaine séance est fixée à Lundi, 26 Mai, à 9 heures du matin, sauf avis contraire.

Fait à Scutari le 21 Mai, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Annexe 1 au Protocole No. 9.

La question de Goussinjé-Plawa qui, ainsi que j'eus l'honneur de le proposer, est mise à l'ordre du jour de la séance du 21 Mai, est une de celles qui n'ont pas cessé de nous préoccuper depuis le moment où nous nous sommes constitués en Commission.

Le fait que, dès le commencement, cette question a appelé notre attention particulière, prouve sa gravité et l'urgence qu'il y a de la résoudre.

En effet, la tâche déjà assez difficile et compliquée des Commissaires en ce qui regarde l'établissement du tracé de la frontière Monténégrine du côté de l'Albanie, se voit aggravée par la circonstance que, sur une étendue considérable, cette frontière longe le district de Goussinjé, au sujet duquel nous avons entendu les déclarations de

MM. les Commissaires de la Turquie et du Monténégro—déclarations qui n'ont eu pour résultat que de nous prouver que de ce côté-là tout est encore indéfini et précaire.

Lors de la conclusion de la Convention de Vir-Bazar le Monténégro avait fait déclarer que la remise officielle du territoire en question lui semblait indispensable. Par contre, la déclaration de M. le Premier Commissaire Ottoman dans la séance du 30 Avril parlait que, ces localités ayant été évacuées par les autorités et les troupes Ottomanes, leur abandon pur et simple devait équivaloir à une remise officielle. A la suite de cette déclaration la Commission émit le vœu que, l'entente des deux Gouvernements au sujet de la remise de Goussinje-Plawa étant de la plus haute importance, elle ait lieu dans le plus bref délai.

Depuis lors trois semaines se sont écoulées. Nous abordons aujourd'hui la même question et nous devons, à notre regret, nous dire qu'elle n'est pas plus avancée qu'elle ne l'était alors.

Cet état de choses se prolongeant, pourra faire surgir une série d'embarras, dont la fin ne peut pas être prévue. Il nous arrêtera dans la poursuite de nos travaux; il créera un précédent dangereux pouvant faire naître la fausse idée qu'il ne faut qu'une opposition opiniâtre aux déterminations du grand Congrès Européen pour les rendre illusoires; il menace d'entraîner à sa suite des discussions entre la Turquie et le Monténégro, et peut même devenir la source de quelque conflit.

Je crois qu'en contribuant, autant que cela dépend de nous, à faire disparaître les obstacles qui semblent encore s'opposer à une solution satisfaisante et pacifique de la question de Goussinjé, nous nous conformerons à l'esprit et aux vues du Traité de Berlin. En le faisant nous ne sortirons pas de nos attributions, mais nous remplirons un de nos principaux devoirs, celui d'écarter tout ce qui peut compromettre l'heureuse exécution de notre Mandat.

J'ai l'honneur de proposer en conséquence:—

Que MM. les Commissaires de la Turquie et du Monténégro soient invités encore une fois à se prononcer nettement sur la question de Goussinjé et d'informer la Commission si elle peut s'attendre à la voir résolue prochainement;

Qu'au cas que ces déclarations ne seraient pas de nature à faire espérer la prompte solution de cette question, la Turquie et le Monténégro soient invités par la voie diplomatique à se conformer, dans le plus bref délai, aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, ayant trait au territoire compris sous le nom collectif de Goussinjé-Plawa, soit par le moyen d'une prompte remise, soit par la recherche d'autres moyens propres à faire accélérer la solution dont il s'agit;

De proposer aux Governments que, les deux Gouvernments intéressés se décidant pour l'arrangement de la question par le moyen d'un compromis, ils en fassent présenter un projet à la Commission, qui, après être tombée d'accord sur les modifications à apporter au tracé du Traité ainsi que sur tous les autres détails se rattachant à une possible rectification, les soumettra à l'approbation des Gouvernements, y compris, bien entendu, ceux des parties intéressées;

D'arrêter que, vu l'urgence des cas, les Commissaires, suivant les informations qu'ils recevront à l'égard de Goussinjé, s'adressent, sans aucun relard, aux Cabinets respectifs, afin que l'action diplomatique puisse avoir lieu promptement.

(Signé) LIPPICH.

Scutari, le 21 Mai, 1879.

Annexe 2 au Protocole No. 9.

Note présentée à la Commission dans la Séance du 21 Mai, par les Commissaires Monténégrins, sur la question de Plawa-Goussinjé.

La Commission ayant mis à l'ordre du jour la question de Plawa-Goussinjé, les Commissaires Monténégrins croient devoir informer la Commission des démarches qui ont été jusqu'ici tentées par le Monténégro touchant cette question.

Le Gouvernement Princier s'est à plusieurs reprises adressé directement à la Sublime Porte et aussi par l'intermédiaire des Grandes Puissances pour obtenir la remise officielle de Plawa-Goussinjé.

Le 1/8 Août [*sic*] de l'année passée, le Gouvernement Monténégrin avait reçu du Gouvernement Turc une dépêche dans laquelle ce dernier faisait savoir qu'il avait envoyé Mehmed Ali Pacha pour faire la remise officielle de tous les territoires que le Congress de Berlin venait d'adjuger à la Principauté, et qu'il invitait celle-ci à envoyer de son côté sur les lieux un Commissaire muni de pleins pouvoirs. Le Soussigné fut le

Commissaire désigné par le Monténégro, et Kolachine avait été fixé dans la dépêche comme le lieu où devaient se réunir les Commissaires des deux parties; tandis qu'une seconde dépêche, reçue le lendemain, indiquait Goussinjé comme le lieu de réunion et comme le point par lequel devait commencer la remise. Le Commissaire Monténégrin se rendit, le jour fixé, sur la frontière de Goussinjé, et il y resta un mois tout entier sans pouvoir atteindre aucun résultat.

Après le meurtre de Mehmed-Ali à Giakovitca, le Gouvernement Princier n'a cessé d'insister afin que le Gouvernement Impérial exécutât la remise officielle qui venait d'être interrompue par la mort de son Délégué, et au mois d'Octobre de l'année passée notre Gouvernement reçut de Constantinople l'assurance que la Sublime Porte venait de donner les ordres nécessaires aux autorités compétentes et au peuple lui-même pour que la remise fût faite au Monténégro.

Quoique le Gouvernement de la Principauté ne pût se montrer satisfait, puisque la Sublime Porte n'avait pas cette fois envoyé de Goussinjé, on envoya de nouveau le Soussigné sur la frontière où plus de deux mois il est resté, sans obtenir plus de résultats qu'il n'en avait obtenu lors de son premier séjour. Néanmoins, il avait pu s'assurer que la population ne s'opposait pas, autant qu'on le prétendait, à sa réunion au Monténégro, mais que certains de ses Chefs, et principalement Ali-beg (Ali Pacha), la poussaient à agir dans le sens contraire.

L'exemple suivant prouve jusqu'à l'évidence la tranquillité de ce peuple et la certitude qu'il a de faire partie du Monténégro: Pendant le séjour du Soussigné sur la frontière de Goussinjé, un berger du village de Vélika fut tué; à la suite de ce fait les principaux habitants des villages Pépitcha, Erjenitée et Novehitche (district de Goussinjé) s'adressèrent aux autorités judiciaires Monténégrines d'Andrijévitca, acceptant l'arrêt prononcé par ce Tribunal, en priant qu'on inscrivît sur la condamnation écrite, qui leur fût remise, qu'ils avient payé tous les dommages pécuniaires, mais que le Tribunal Princier, une fois la délimitation faite, devait leur donner la part qui leur revenait de l'amende que devaient payer les coupables qui ne s'étaient pas présentés devant le Tribunal.

Il est évident que, si ce peuple voulait se refuser de faire partie du Monténégro, il ne se serait certainement pas adressé à nos Tribunaux, et n'aurait pas insisté pour qu'il fût fait mention de la remarque précédente dans la sentence écrite, prononcée par notre Tribunal.

Au mois de Janvier de cette année a eu lieu à Vir-Bazar la réunion des Commissaires Turcs et Monténégrins, et là encore ces derniers ont déclaré que la remise officielle de Plawa-Goussinjé était indispensable, à quoi MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ont répondu qu'ils n'avaient pour cela aucune instruction, et qu'ils étaient seulement autorisés à s'entendre sur la remise des territoires situés dans le Vilayet de Scutari.

A la suite de ce qui précède, le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas cru devoir faire de nouvelles démarches pour Plawa-Goussinjé, d'autant plus que la réunion de la présente Commission lui ayant été signalée, il avait tout lieu de croire que celle-ci, devant se rendre sur les lieux, aurait rendu indispensable préalablement la remise officielle du territoire en question.

(Signé) S. POPOVIC.

Inclosure 8 in No. 120.

Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro.

Protocole No. 10.—Séance du 24 Mai, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Testa.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Consul-Général Lippich,
M. le Capitaine Sauerwald.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Comte Colonna Ceccaldi.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Sale,
M. le Lieutenant Caillard.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi.

Pour le Monténégro—
M. Simo Popovic,
M. Nico Matanovic.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Nicolas Kaulbars I.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général de Brigade Veli Riza Pacha,
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey,
M. l'Adjudant-Major Tahri Bey,
M. Pszenny Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures et demie.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Le Président annonce qu'à la suite d'un incident grave, qui s'est produit pendant la reconnaissance le 23 Mai, il a cru devoir réunir la Commission avant la date fixée. Il s'exprime ainsi:—

"Les travaux de la Commission ont été suspendus en présence d'une opposition formelle de la part de l'autorité militaire de Tusi. Le 22 Mai, au soir, j'avais, comme Président, sur le sommet de la redoute de Hilin, demandé à son Excellence Riza Pacha que des ordres précis assurassent aux Commissaires et officiers topographes la possibilité de travailler sur tous les points où ils le jugeaient nécessaires. Son Excellence a répondu, en présence de tous les Commissaires, que les ordres voulus étaient donnés par lui, et il a, effectivement, donné des ordres, particulièrement au Commandant des redoutes de Vranja, qui se trouvait là."

Avant de poursuivre la discussion à ce sujet, le Président croit nécessaire qu'un exposé détaillé de l'incident soit fait par l'un des Commissaires présents sur les lieux. La parole est donnée à M. le Baron Kaulbars, qui expose l'incident dans ces termes:—

"Le 22, la Commission étant descendue du Hilin, a pu travailler sans entraves sur le chemin entre cette colline et Tusi.

"Le lendemain matin, 23, on continuait les travaux près Tusi, lorsque l'on aperçut sur le chemin un groupe d'officiers, parmi lesquels se trouvait le Général Hadji Osman Pacha, Commandant des troupes de ce district. Sur ma proposition, les Commissaires se portèrent à son rencontre, et le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey fit les présentations d'usage en se chargeant des fonctions d'interprète pendant la conversation qui suivit.

"Je priais le Pacha de donner les ordres pour que l'on réunit quelques habitants des villages voisins, afin d'obtenir des détails précis sur les différents tribus. Le Général s'y consentit sans difficulté, et nous demanda ensuite quelle direction prendraient nos travaux.

"Je répondis, qu'il nous était indispensable de faire l'ascension des collines de Vrani. Le Général déclare qu'il n'était pas autorisé à permettre à la Commission l'ascension de ces monticules parce qu'ils étaient fortifiés.

"Je déclarais alors que s'il se trouvait à proximité quelque point plus élevé, nous pourrions nous dispenser d'entrer dans les fortifications, mais que, dans le cas contraire, nous ne pourrions éviter de le faire. Le Général se refusa à accéder à notre demande.

"Je lui fis alors remarquer, qu'en agissant ainsi, il arrêtait les travaux de la Commission. Le Général répliqua qu'il y avait d'autres collines dont l'ascension était permise, comme, par exemple, Chipchanik.

"J'ai observé que ce point nous serait utile plus tard, mais n'avait aucune relation avec les travaux actuels.

"Ayant insisté de nouveau sur les raisons qui nous obligeaient à l'ascension du Vlani, Hadji Osman Pacha répondit qu'il ne pouvait donner l'autorisation demandée.

"Le Capitaine Sauerwald demande alors au Général par l'entremise de Bedri Bey, s'il se rendait compte de la responsabilité qu'il assumait en arrêtant les travaux de la Commission. Le Capitaine Sauerwald a fait, plus tard, observer à Bedri Bey que ces fortifications étaient situées dans une zone indéterminée.

"Le Capitaine Sale demande ensuite au Pacha de fixer deux ou trois points élevés d'où l'on pourrait travailler.

"Sur l'observation du Capitaine Sauerwald que tous les points où il fallait opérer étaient justement des monticules fortifiés, le Pacha déclarait que ces points ne pouvaient, par cette raison, servir aux projets de la Commission qui pourraient aller dans les monticules mais ne pas entrer dans les redoutes. A quoi j'ai répondu que cette proposition était inacceptable, les points élevés indispensables à nos observations se trouvant justement dans l'intérieur des redoutes. Hadji Osman Pacha a alors indiqué le Mali-Hoti, qui ne pouvait nous être d'aucune utilité.

"Malgré nos vives instances, le Pacha a insisté dans son refus. Je lui fis remarquer que son Excellence Riza Pacha avait donné des ordres formels non comme Commissaire mais comme Chef d'Etat-Major de la Division de Scutari. Je priais alors le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey de renouveler au Général les ordres de Riza Pacha qu'il avait entendus lui-même.

"Après une courte discussion, et devant l'inutilité de nos instances, j'ai déclaré devant tous mes collègues, et avec leur assentiment, que la Commission se voyait obligée de quitter le terrain, en laissant toute la responsabilité de ce grave incident aux autorités qui l'avaient provoqué."

Tous les autres Commissaires présents à l'incident, savoir: MM. le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, le Capitaine Sale, le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey, le Capitaine Sauerwald, le Lieutenant Caillard, S. Popovic, et N. Matanovic, appuient de leur témoignage la narration de M. le Baron Kaulbars. *Bedri Bey* ajoute que Hadji Osman Pacha avait proposé de demander des ordres à Scutari; mais *le Baron Kaulbars* lui répondit que ses ordres ne pourraient parvenir à Tusi que dans un temps tout-à-fait indéterminé, et que les Commissaires n'étaient même pas sûr de la nature qu'ils auraient, et que, par conséquent, ils ne pourraient les attendre.

Le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi rappelle qu'avant de quitter Tusi, Bedri Bey a écrit une lettre à Hadji Osman Pacha—une lettre dans laquelle il répétait qu'il était présent lorsque Riza Pacha avait donné l'ordre de permettre l'accès des fortifications aux Commissaires. Osman Pacha répondit dérechef qu'il n'avait pas d'instructions qui lui permirent d'accorder cet accès, et qu'il le regrettait vivement.

Le Baron Kaulbars propose que la Commission proteste formellement contre le fait regrettable qu'il vient d'exposer, et que chaque Commissaire en réfère à son Gouvernement afin d'éviter le renouvellement d'incidents pareilles.

Le Capitaine Sale demande au Commissaire Ottoman ce qu'il pense de cet incident.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha déclare qu'il a pris sur lui la responsabilité de faire entrer la Commission dans la Redoute de Hilim (Helmit) en donnant les ordres nécessaires en sa qualité de Commissaire, et non comme Chef d'Etat-Major, attendu qu'il ne remplit plus ses fonctions dans la Division de Scutari. La veille du départ pour Hum (Hilim) le Gouverneur-Général lui avait adressé une lettre pour l'informer officiellement que la Commission ne devait pas entrer dans les fortifications. Plus tard Hussein Pacha, à la suite d'une visite faite par lui à M. le Comte Ceccaldi, a dit à Riza Pacha que les Commissaires n'entreraient pas dans les fortifications.

Le Commissaire de France s'étonne que le Gouverneur-Général ait pu, après leur conversation, formuler une telle conclusion. Il fait remarquer tout d'abord que cette

conversation a eu lieu par l'intermédiaire d'un Drogman, et il prend occasion du sujet de cette discussion de prier son Excellence Riza Pacha de faire connaître au Gouverneur-Général, qu'après cet incident il se trouve dans l'obligation de n'accepter aucune conversation, même à titre privé, sur le terrain des affaires qui pourront donner lieu à un échange de communications avec les autorités locales, que par l'intermédiaire indiqué du Commissaire Ottoman, et en séance.

Entrant ensuite dans l'exposé de sa conversation avec le Gouverneur-Général, *le Comte Collona Ceccaldi* la résume en ces termes, d'après le carnet des notes qu'il tient à jour sur tous les incidents notables se rapportant aux travaux de la Commission:—

"Le Vali parle du désir de ne pas voir 'visiter' par les officiers de la Commission les redoutes ou fortifications élevées par les Turques sur la ligne d'Helmit à Dinosi. Je lui dis que son désir peut être pris en considération, en résumant toutefois les nécessités du travail topographique que la Commission a à accomplir, et qui peuvent l'obliger à se transporter sur l'emplacement d'une redoute pour faire le levé du terrain."

Le Comte Ceccaldi demande ensuite:—

"1. Si son Excellence Hussein Pacha a pu induire de ses paroles, que même dans le cas où il serait indispensable pour les opérations topographiques d'entrer dans les lieux fortifiés, lui, Président, admettait qu'on peut en refuser l'entrée aux Commissaires. Ceci est inadmissible, et quelles que soient les erreurs d'appréciation d'une conversation par intermédiaire de Drogman, c'est une pure question de bonne foi de reconnaître que le Président n'a jamais pu admettre une prétention de ce genre."

Le Commissaire de France demande encore:—

"2. Si, comme militaire, comme Officier Général, le Vali, Commandant-en-chef, a pu croire un instant qu'il ne serait pas indispensable aux Commissaires et officiers chargés des travaux topographiques de se porter sur les lieux les plus élevés (qui sont d'ordinaire aussi les points choisis pour établir les ouvrages de défense), et s'il ne s'est pas rendu compte dès lors de la gravité de l'interdiction donnée d'une manière absolue, d'entrer dans les points fortifiés."

Le Commissaire de France dit qu'il ne saurait donc être question de déplacer les responsabilités, d'autant que d'autres faits devaient rendre évidentes aux yeux de son Excellence Hussein Pacha, si elles étaient restées douteuses dans son esprit, les intentions de la Commission au sujet de l'entrée dans les points fortifiés.

Effectivement le Gouverneur-Général, Commandant-en-chef, se rendit à Helmit le 20 Mai, dès qu'il eût connaissance de la résolution de la Commission d'aller faire une reconnaissance de ce côté. Il y donna ses ordres quant à l'entrée dans les redoutes, et ce n'est que le 21, dans l'après-midi, qu'il vint faire au Président la visite dont il a été parlé. C'est le 22 que la Commission se rendit à Helmit. Après son débarquement, et quand elle se présenta à la redoute, qui occupe le sommet du Hum (Hilim) opposition ayant été faite à son entrée, le Président s'adressa à son Excellence Riza Pacha, en lui représentant que les Commissaires devaient être admis sur tous les points où il leur paraîtrait nécessaire de faire des opérations.

A la suite de cette déclaration son Excellence fit admettre les Commissaires dans la redoute. Quelques instants plus tard et au moment de retourner à Scutari avec MM. les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et de Turquie, le Président s'adressant de nouveau, en présence de tous les membres de la Commission réunis sur le sommet de Hum (Hilim) à son Excellence Riza Pacha,—lui exposa, de manière précise, qu'il devait être bien établi que les Commissaires et officiers laissés sur le terrain auraient toute latitude pour pénétrer dans tous les endroits nécessaires à leurs travaux—redoutes ou non. Riza Pacha déclara que les ordres précis étaient donnés par lui dans ce sens, et que rien ne viendrait entraver les opérations, et il donna, séance tenante, des ordres conformes au Commandant des redoutes des collines de la plaine, le Capitaine Sauerwald ayant déclaré que l'entrée des officiers dans plusieurs de ces redoutes, le lendemain, était indispensable.

Son Excellence Riza Pacha fut de retour le même soir à Scutari avec les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et de France, et il ne pouvait conserver aucun doute sur l'intention de la Commission, manifestée par son Président au sujet de l'entrée dans les redoutes. Il ne serait pas admissible que le Commissaire Ottoman n'eût pas informé de suite le Gouverneur-Général des incidents de la journée, de l'entrée des Commissaires dans la redoute de Hum (Hilim), et des ordres par lui donnés sur la demande de la Commission. A ce moment le Gouverneur-Général a donc été complétement éclairé à son tour, s'il conservait quelques doutes sur la façon dont la Commission, y compris son Président, entendait la question des lieux fortifiés. Hors, il y a de Scutari à Helmit trois heures au plus en bateau à vapeur; à Helmit il y un télégraphe

correspondant en quelques minutes avec le quartier-général de Tusi; rien n'était donc plus facile à son Excellence Hussein Pacha par ces deux moyens combinés, que de transmettre à Hadji Osman Pacha, commandant sur ce point, dans la nuit, des ordres nouveaux et précis au sujet de la question des redoutes, ordres qui eussent évités le grave incident qu'on vient d'exposer devant la Commission.

Après ces explications *le Président* invite la Commission à discuter la proposition du Baron Kaulbars concernant la protestation à transmettre aux Gouvernements respectifs.

Le Capitaine Sale appui la proposition du Commissaire de Russie avec vifs regrets, convaincu qu'il est que la Porte, qui a toujours facilité les travaux des autres Commissions, n'est pas l'auteur de ce malentendu, mais que ce sont des faits purement locaux.

M. le Premier Commissaire Ottoman ne peut s'associer à la protestation.

Pszenny Effendi est convaincu que l'incident est un malentendu regrettable, qui ne saurait avoir des suites sérieuses pour les travaux de la Commission. Il pense donc que la protestation ne présente pas d'utilité pratique.

Le Capitaine Sale désire que la protestation soit expédiée sous forme d'un rapport précisant les faits aux Gouvernements respectifs.

La séance est suspendue jusqu'à 4 heures pour la rédaction de la protestation proposée.

A 4 heures MM. les Commissaires se réunissent de nouveau. Les Commissaires Ottomans donnent lecture de la déclaration suivante :—

"A la suite des éclaircissements donnés par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, les Commissaires Ottomans font connaître—

"1. Que l'ordre défendant l'accès des fortifications n'a pas été donné récemment dans le but d'entraver les travaux de la Commission; c'est une mesure militaire générale mise en vigueur de tout temps;

"2. Que dans la conversation qui a eu lieu entre M. le Comte Colonel Ceccaldi et son Excellence Hussein Pacha, ce dernier n'a pas interprété les paroles de M. le Colonel Ceccaldi dans le sens que la Commission fût dans la nécessité absolue d'entrer dans les fortifications. Si ce malentendu ne s'était pas produit, son Excellence Hussein Pacha aurait autorisé la Commission à entrer dans les dites fortifications, sauf à en être informé quatre jours d'avance;

"3. Que, même en voulant envoyer des ordres à Tusi, après le départ de son Excellence Riza Pacha, le temps matériel aurait manqué pour les faire parvenir, vu le retour précipité de la Commission;

"4. Dans l'état de la question, son Excellence Hussein Pacha autorise la Commission pour le présent et l'avenir à entrer dans les positions militaires des troupes de la division de Scutari, chaque fois que besoin en sera, à condition que le dit Hussein Pacha soit informé quatre jours d'avance du désir de la Commission;

"5. Devant ces déclarations les Commissaires Ottomans pensent que la protestation dont il a été question n'a plus sa raison d'être, attendu qu'aucune entrave n'existe plus au libre travail de la Commission, et que le regrettable incident de Tusi ne pourra en aucune façon se reproduire à l'avenir."

Le Baron Kaulbars demande pourquoi l'ordre de laisser entrer les membres de la Commission dans les redoutes n'a pas été donné à temps, puisque son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général savait très-bien depuis quelques jours que la Commission devait se rendre sur les lieux et pourrait avoir besoin d'entrer dans les fortifications qui couronnent certaines collines. Le terme de quatre jours, fixé par son Excellence, ne lui paraît pas pratique, parce que la Commission, une fois sur le terrain, ne pourrait pas attendre pendant quatre jours et plus peut-être l'autorisation de visiter tel ou tel point.

Le Commissaire de France, à propos du quatrième paragraphe, trouve également que les propositions faites ne sont pas acceptables. Il observe que l'obligation de prévenir quatre jours à l'avance du désir des Commissaires d'entrer dans tel endroit fortifié, équivaudrait dans la pratique à l'empêchement des travaux.

M. Lippich dit que le Gouverneur-Général sachant que la Commission devait se rendre aux environs de Hum, aurait dû donner tout ordre nécessaire pour éviter tout malentendu.

Pszenny Effendi ne saurait nier que son Excellence Hussein Pasha n'ait défendu d'une manière générale l'accès des fortifications; mais il semblerait que le Gouverneur-Général n'a pas inféré des paroles de M. le Comte Ceccaldi que la Commission dut absolument pénétrer dans les dites fortifications. D'ailleurs, cette prohibition n'existe plus par le fait du paragraphe 4 de la Déclaration des Commissaires Ottomans. La condition qui y est mentionnée et qui ne semble pas pratique à la Commission pourrait du reste être modifiée.

Le Président demande à la Commission quel est son sentiment sur les conclusions contenues dans le paragraphe 5 de la Déclaration présentée par MM. les Commissaires de Turquie.

La Commission rejette ces conclusions, et passe à la lecture du projet de protestation qui est conçu dans ces termes :—

"A la suite d'un grave incident, la Commission est tombée d'accord que chaque Commissaire enverra le télégramme suivant à son Gouvernement :—

"Hier, 23 Mai, dans une reconnaissance préliminaire entre le lac et Podgoritza, les Commissaires chargés des travaux ont été arrêtés par l'opposition formelle et absolue de l'autorité militaire Turque. Elle s'est refusée à les laisser monter sur certains points indispensables à leurs opérations, parce qu'ils étaient fortifiés, bien que ces points se trouvent dans une zone encore indéterminée. Cependant, la veille, sur le terrain et en présence de tous les membres de la Commission, le Commissaire Ottoman, sur la demande du Président de la Commission, avait fourni l'assurance formelle que des ordres étaient donnés pour que les Commissaires fussent libres d'opérer partout où ils le jugeraient nécessaire. La Commission a le regret de voir là nullement un malentendu, mais la conséquence d'une disposition générale qu'elle a pu constater dès le commencement, et qui paraît ne viser qu'à rendre sa tâche impossible. En présence de cette situation, qui l'atteint dans l'autorité qu'elle tient des Hautes Puissances qu'elle représente, la Commission déclare que, sans une satisfaction prompte et exemplaire atteignant toute personne à qui remonterait la responsabilité des faits signalés, la continuation de sa tâche ne peut avoir lieu."

Riza Pacha, présentant ses observations sur ce projet de protestation, ne reconnaît pas que les fortifications dont il y est parlé se trouvent dans une zone indéterminée, et il ajoute qu'elles ont existé de tout temps.

M. Matanovich soutient que ces points ont été fortifiés peu de temps avant la réunion de la Commission.

Riza Pacha maintient son affirmation.

Le Premier Commissaire Ottoman proteste ensuite contre le contenu du troisième alinéa de la Protestation; il est complétement inexacte (selon lui) que l'autorité militaire Turque ait soulevé "dès le commencement" des difficultés à la Commission.

Après une discussion sur le mode de transmettre la protestation aux Gouvernements respectifs, *le Capitaine Sale* déclare qu'il eût préféré un rapport écrit, et qu'il renverrait ce rapport à son Gouvernement, mais que pour agir d'accord avec la majorité de la Commission qui désire envoyer un télégramme, il enverra également ce télégramme. Quant à la déclaration des Commissaires Ottomans, il la transmettra à son Gouvernement avec la protestation.

La Commission passe au vote sur le projet de protestation, qui est adopté dans les termes ci-dessus transcrits par 7 voix contre 1 (celle de M. le Commissaire Ottoman).

Après ce vote, *le Commissaire Ottoman* remet le vote suivant, résumant les instructions qu'il a reçues :—

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman ne peut accepter la décision de la Commission qui fait passer la ligne-frontière près l'îlot nommé Gorica-Topal, sur la carte Autrichienne. Pour ne pas interrompre les travaux, le Commissaire Ottoman propose que la Commission, en réservant entièrement à une décision ultérieure le tracé passant près de l'îlot susdit pour atteindre le sommet des hauteurs entre le lac et la mer, continue ses travaux en traçant la frontière partant de Val Crucé pour aboutir à un point entre Kalimed et Megurrit."

La Commission ajourne la discussion de cette note à une séance ultérieure.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

La prochaine séance, consacrée à la lecture du dernier Protocole, est fixée pour Lundi, 26 Mai, à 9 heures du matin.

Fait à Scutari, le 24 Mai, 1879.

(Signé) TESTA.
LIPPICH.
COLONNA CECCALDI.
M. T. SALE.
OTTOLENGHI.
S. POPOVIC.
Baron KAULBARS.
RIZA.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) TESTA.
PSZENNY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 120.

Annexe au Protocole No. 3.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,
M. le Ministre,

Cettigné, le 3 Mai, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence l'extrait suivant de la décision prise par la Commission Européenne pour la Délimitation du Monténégro :—

"La Commission décide qu'après avoir complété à Scutari son organisation matérielle, elle commencera par se rendre sur la côte du Lac de Scutari, et débarquera entre Zogai et le premier poste Monténégrin, qui existe actuellement au nord-ouest de ce point."

La communication qui précède a pour but de mettre en mesure le Gouvernement Ottoman Monténégrin de prendre, en ce qui le concerne, les dispositions qui lui paraîtront convenables, pour assurer la sécurité de la Commission.

Veuillez, &c.

Son Excellence Hussein Pacha,
Gouverneur-Général et Commandant-en-chef
des Troupes à Scutari, Albanie.
Son Excellence M. St. Radonich,
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à Cettigné.

No. 120.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 609.)
My Lord,

Paris, June 6, 1879.

WITH reference to the telegrams, *en clair*, recorded in my despatches No. 595 of the 1st instant, No. 596 of the 2nd instant, and No. 604 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that Prince Alexander of Battenberg, Prince elect of Bulgaria, paid visits on the 1st instant to the President of the Republic, the President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the foreign Ambassadors at Paris.

On the 3rd instant the Prince was present at a dinner and evening party given in his honour by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and on the day before yesterday he left Paris on his way to England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 121.

Count Andrassy to Count Benst.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury, June 7.)

Vienne, le 30 Mai, 1879.

PAR la dépêche dont j'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint une copie à votre Excellence, le Gouvernement Français expose sa manière de voir sur les conditions dans lesquelles la médiation entre la Turquie et la Grèce doit s'exercer.

Les considérations développées dans cette pièce m'ont vivement intéressé. Nous sommes bien aises que le Cabinet de Versailles ait tenu compte des observations que nous avons cru devoir faire au sujet d'une conférence et qu'il consente à laisser la plus grande latitude aux pourparlers des Représentants à Constantinople en les dégageant des formalités qui entraveraient cette liberté et dont la dépêche de M. Waddington signale les inconvénients et les dangers. L'unité de l'action des Représentants étant nécessaire pour démontrer aux parties intéressées l'accord des Puissances, les résolutions prises à l'unanimité devront seules être communiquées à la Porte et au Gouvernement Hellénique.

Je prie votre Excellence de dire à M. Waddington que nous sommes heureux de partager sa manière de voir, et que nos Représentants à Athènes et à Constantinople recevront l'instruction d'inviter, de concert avec leurs collègues, les Gouvernements de Grèce et de Turquie à désigner immédiatement leurs Plénipotentiaires.

Votre Excellence est autorisée à donner lecture de cette dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et à lui en laisser copie s'il le désire.

Agréez, &c.

No. 122.

Count Montgelas to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

Dear Lord Salisbury,

Saturday

I AM directed to communicate the inclosed substance of a telegram received this morning to you. Count Andrassy is desirous of having your opinion on the subject. I should look upon it as a great favour if you could let me have an answer by to-morrow (Sunday night) as I wish to go out of town for a day or two on Monday morning.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) R. MONTGELAS.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Substance of Telegram received from Count Andrassy.

BARON HERBERT has forwarded to Count Andrassy a note received by him as well as by his colleagues at Belgrade from M. Ristich, and bearing date May 30. The Servian Government requests therein that the International Frontier Regulation Commission should revise their last year's work and trace out a new frontier, especially in the direction of Vranja and Prepolatz. Servia asserts that she does not make this request in order to gain territory, but only in order to improve her defensive position, which is now insufficient, against Albania.

Count Andrassy has instructed Baron Herbert to declare to M. Ristich that we object in principle to any deviation from the Treaty of Berlin, and that we shall not tolerate any, and that therefore we cannot countenance the Servian request.

No. 123.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 471.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 6, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 469, Council of Ministers decided yesterday to request English and Austrian Governments to agree that Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia shall not act upon advice of Commission as to necessity of calling Turkish troops into the province, or as to any other matter provided for by the Treaty of Berlin, but upon his own responsibility; and that in other questions, when he consults the Commission, he shall only act upon advice given unanimously, and not by the majority.

I understand instructions have been sent to Turkish Ambassadors to address themselves in this sense to British and Austrian Governments.

No. 124.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 88. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, June 6, 1879.

I LEARN, secretly, from a banker mixed up in the affair, that the Bank of Nevada has telegraphed, offering to take 50,000,000 roubles of new loan, if payment accepted in silver.

Very lately "Crédit Lyonnais" offered to Russian Government a sterling loan of 40,000,000*l.* at 80, on condition of a guarantee that no other foreign loan shall be made for four years. Minister of Finance finds these conditions unfavourable, but French company are still pressing their proposal. Messrs. Erlanger, of Paris, have sent in tender of loan of 20,000,000*l.* sterling.

Large orders coming from abroad for third Oriental loan, my informant considers

that no sterling loan will be attempted at present. When exchange has become more firm a foreign loan, if still required, can be made on better conditions.

No. 125.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 7, 1879.*

RUSSIAN and Italian Ministers have just called on me. As the former quits Athens to-morrow he will leave a note addressed to Greek Government to be delivered on the same day that the other Representatives of Great Powers at Athens except that of Italy invite this Government to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople to renew negotiations with Porte. The Italian Minister, who goes on leave to-morrow, will send to-day a note to this Government conveying the same request.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th instant, Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has telegraphed for, but not received an answer as to language he is to hold on the subject to this Government. French and German Chargé d'Affaires have as yet taken no action, and former desired that a simultaneous verbatim communication should be made to Greek Government.

No. 126.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 19th instant, I am informed that the Greek Government have heard from their Consul at Larissa that it was reported there that a bloody encounter had taken place near Tricalla between Turkish troops and brigands, in which the former suffered immense loss; that in consequence two battalions of troops were sent on the 10th instant against the brigands, 80 of whom were killed, 4 escaping, 150 soldiers being killed and 50 wounded. The brigands are stated to consist of Bulgarians, Greeks, and Montenegrins, some of them being Greek soldiers, probably deserters. The combat is reported to have taken place near Tzouka and Flambouri. The Consul's Report is dated the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 127.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Greek Government have heard from the military authorities on the frontier that on the 13th/25th instant 500 Ottoman soldiers were in pursuit of 125 brigands on the frontier of Epirus. Some Greek soldiers had taken up a position intending to attack the brigands in case they crossed the frontier. Perceiving this, the brigands withdrew, unperceived by Turks, into Ottoman territory. The Ottoman soldiers passed the frontier, and began firing on the Greek soldiers, in spite of the latter making known that they were only there in pursuit of the brigands. The Turks continuing their fire, the Greek detachment returned it, and the engagement continued for three hours, the Turks eventually retiring after losing three men. The Greeks suffered no loss.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 128.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to Sir H. Layard's telegram to your Lordship of the 29th instant, that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs denies positively that Greek soldiers have been sent to incite insurrection in Thessaly. The Insurrectionary Committee at Athens have certainly not had anything to do with the affair, being without funds for any such purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 129.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 31, 1879.*

I AM told by the French Chargé d'Affaires that he has been informed by his Government that Her Majesty's Government accept the proposals contained in the French Circular of the 19th instant, and he has been instructed to invite, in conjunction with the other Representatives of the Governments represented at the Congress of Berlin, the Greek Government to send Commissioners to Constantinople for the purpose of continuing the negotiations relative to the rectification of the Greek frontier, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 130.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 31, 1879.*

COUNT MAFFEI, the Italian Minister at this Court, informs me that he has been instructed to express to the Greek Government, with reference to the formation of a camp near the frontier of Epirus, the hope of the Italian Government that nothing will be done by the Greek Government which might interfere with a pacific arrangement of the frontier question between Greece and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 131.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 7, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA is anxious at the Russians establishing hospitals at different towns where they intend to leave 500 men after the evacuation as being too ill to be moved. This he considers a pretext.

Madame Skobeleff's charitable scheme is not very successful, the Bulgarians refusing to subscribe.

No. 132.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, June 7, 1879.*

CAPTAIN SALE requests me to telegraph following to your Lordship:—

"Commission is at present unemployed, awaiting replies to the identic despatches sent by each Commissioner on 25th ultimo.

"Governor of Scutari yesterday offered to admit Commission to photograph fortified places near boundary, but the Commission decided not to recommence work until replies were received from their respective Governments, feeling that it is necessary to have settled once for all this matter of obstruction by the local authorities. Owing to difficulties raised by the Turks, Commission has made no progress in actual demarcation."

No. 133.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 218.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 28, 1879.*

I CALLED this afternoon on Baron Jomini, to speak about the difficulties which, as I gather from your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 101 and 102 of the 24th and 27th instant respectively, have arisen respecting the point near Karaourgan from which the British Commission is to take part in the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey.

I found his Excellency little inclined to discuss this matter, the details of which he professed to know nothing about. He had already had occasion to call the attention of the British Government to the continued difficulties which he said were being raised by Major Clarke, and which were delaying the completion of a work which the Russian Government were just as anxious to expedite as the British Government could be.

I stated that my information did not lead me to believe that it was the British Commissioner who was to blame; I pointed out to the Baron that he might, without prejudging the case, move M. de Giers to invite the Russian Commissioner to show the same conciliatory spirit which Her Majesty's Government had inculcated on theirs. I therefore begged that he would oblige me by telegraphing in this sense to Livadia.

His Excellency refused to telegraph, but promised to write to Livadia by the next post.

As His Majesty the Emperor and M. de Giers leave Livadia on the 6th, *en route* for Berlin, and will not return to Tsarskoe-Zeloe till the 19th, Baron Jomini's writing will, I fear, not be of much practical utility.

I could not, however, obtain more; and, as I had received no instructions from your Lordship to urge Major Clarke's views, it seemed to me better to drop the matter for the present.

Baron Jomini, in the course of his remarks, volunteered the statement that there could be no question of Russia agreeing to abide by a decision of the majority in the Asiatic Boundary Commission, as she had done in the Delimitation Commissions in Europe. The Turkish and British Commissioners would always be certain to combine against the Russian.

The sad tone in which the Baron made this remark would seem to show little faith in the close friendship with Turkey which the Russian Government are believed to be trying for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 134.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 191 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Jomini read me this afternoon a telegram from Prince Labanoff, stating that Osman Agha had been released from confinement on the

5th/20th instant, and had been at once handed over to the Commandant of Philippopolis for expulsion from Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 135.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 221. Secret.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 20, 1879.*

I HAVE been informed, in strict confidence, by one of the foreign Representatives, that Baron Jomini let out to him in conversation that the Russian Government build considerable hopes for the future on what they believe to be the growing coolness between Great Britain and France.

He also assured me that the Russian Government are encouraging and flattering the French in their opposition at Constantinople and elsewhere, while, on the other hand, he states that General Chanzy condoles here with the Russian officers on the blow to their prestige in Central Asia which has been inflicted by the British arrangements with Yakoob Khan, and which the General considers cannot be repaired even by an immediate Russian occupation of Merv.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 136.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 233. Secret.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 2, 1879.*

I HAVE found lately that the Turkish Ambassador is well inclined to be communicative.

I am unable to appreciate exactly whether his motive is a desire to serve Great Britain, or only the wish to make me think worse of the Russians, and thus try to hamper the better understanding between Great Britain and this country which Her Majesty's Ambassador has brought about.

In reply to my inquiry whether any negotiations had taken place between Namyk Pasha and M. de Giers, Shakir Pasha was good enough to tell me to-day that, as far as he was aware, nothing beyond complimentary phrases had been interchanged at Livadia. There had been, however, private communications, whether through General Obrutcheff or Prince Labanoff he did not know, between the Emperor of Russia and the Sultan with the view of influencing the Sultan's mind against England, and gaining him over to an alliance with Russia. The Emperor has promised the Sultan privately that the Russian troops shall have evacuated Eastern Roumelia completely by the end of June, Russian style.

Shakir Pasha assured me that every means were being employed to influence the Sultan and his Court, as the Russians could not gain the confidence of the present Turkish Cabinet, who, although not altogether pleased with the treatment which Turkey had received from Great Britain, considered, nevertheless, that she was a safer friend than Russia, who had always been hostile. Moreover, they had no confidence in the promises of Russia, whose real object they feared was mainly to embroil Turkey with Great Britain in order that she might, at a suitable moment, fall an easier prey.

He stated that Baron Jomini has pressed earnestly on him the greater advantages which Turkey might derive from a hearty alliance with her neighbour than from the doubtful support of Great Britain, and the Baron ended by saying that, in spite of every obstacle, this close alliance would become an actual fact. Shakir Pasha understood him to mean that Russia felt sure of winning over the Sultan to her views; and his Excellency gave me to understand that he feared such a result was by no means impossible.

His Excellency said he had heard from Constantinople that it had been originally intended to attach to Namyk Pasha an Aide-de-camp of the Sultan, well known for his pro-Russian tendencies, whose presence would have been agreeable at Livadia; but that,

at the last moment, Prince Labanoff had feared the departure of this officer might arouse the suspicions of Her Majesty's Ambassador, and had advised his being left behind.

This is probably the person mentioned to me by Baron Jomini, as reported in my despatch No. 183 of the 15th ultimo.

Shakir Pasha again reverted to the language held to him by Baron Jomini respecting the hopes which Russia had founded on the apparent coolness between Great Britain and France, and which seemed to be no longer so great as they had been. Baron Jomini expressed privately to his Excellency great disgust at the blindness of M. Waddington in not seeing the advantages which France might acquire by abandoning England, but he hoped that circumstances might soon force M. Waddington to make way to some more enlightened statesman.

While pointing out that there was no real misunderstanding between the British and French Governments, and that there had only been a newspaper controversy, I inquired of Shakir Pasha who he supposed Baron Jomini was alluding to as the more enlightened statesman who was to replace M. Waddington? Was it M. Gambetta, or did he, perhaps, allude to General Chanzy?

Shakir Pasha said he could not tell; but he did not think it was General Chanzy; for although he flattered and paid court to the Russians, the General had on several occasions privately expressed to him the great value he attaches to the maintenance of a close friendship with Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 137.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 273.) *Berlin, May 31, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Prince of Bulgaria was given no special rank as such during his stay at Berlin, because he has not yet received the investiture of the Sultan.

He was, however, received with honours, a dinner being given to him by the Emperor, and an Aide-de-camp was attached to his person. The name of the Aide-de-camp is Herr von Riesedel. So far as I have been able to learn, the same reception was accorded to His Serene Highness at Vienna. The Prince himself told me that he preferred to be received quite privately, and would like his brother to be allowed to stay with him while he is in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 138.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(No. 254.) *Rome, June 4, 1879.*

My Lord,

COUNT TORNIELLI has informed me that a copy of the answer of the Italian Government to the last French proposal respecting mediation between Greece and Turkey has been sent to Count Menabrea for communication to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 139.

Count Andrássy to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, June 9.)

COUNT ZICHY telegraphs that the Council of Ministers has taken to the following decision:—

The Commission has the right to vote on matters connected with the introduction of the Statute and with its carrying it out, a vote which is only binding on the Governor-General if carried unanimously. The Commission has not the right to bind by their votes the Governor-General in respect to any questions that have already been decided by the Treaty of Berlin itself. Such a question is the calling in of the troops, which is regulated by Article XVI. The Governor-General can consult the Commission on such a subject, but is in no way bound by their vote.

This proposition has been submitted to the British Cabinet, Carathéodory's instructions to the Turkish Delegates to be that they should pretext absence of instructions until an agreement has been arrived at between England, the Porte, and us.

As your Excellency knows, we have looked upon the character of a vote by the majority of the Commission as binding only in the case of the calling in of the troops. M. de Kallay and the British Delegate have also spoken in that sense at the meeting of the Commission on the 15th instant. Our opinion was that the Governor alone, and without having the sanction of the majority of the Commission, was not to call the troops in. We maintained this opinion in the face of the original Russian proposal, which intended to make the calling in of the troops depend upon a unanimous vote of the Commission. If the Porte should wish to maintain the principle of unanimity we shall not object, but believe that the idea according to which the Commission would only have the right to advise is clearer and more in accordance with the Treaty.

In respect of the calling in of the troops the Porte might safeguard its point of view by a declaration to the following effect:—That, although accepting the binding character of the majority vote, it is not inclined thereby to prejudice any rights conferred on it by Treaty. Practically no harm can ensue thereby, as the Government would not take so momentous a step without being sure, beforehand, of the consent of at least the majority of the Commission, as long as the Commission is there. If, however, the Commission were dissolved, which seems to us probable, or even certain, soon after the evacuation is carried through, then the whole question falls to the ground and the Treaty of Berlin has undisputed sway.

If the British Government agrees with our view, we shall take steps at Constantinople in that sense.

No. 140.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June 8, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, Italian Minister did not send in a note as I stated, but read to Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs a despatch from his Government, in answer to Greek Circular, and inviting Greek Government to send a plenipotentiary to Constantinople.

My other colleagues are not [group wrong] to answer Circular, but merely to invite this Government to send a plenipotentiary.

We shall make communication simultaneously.

No. 141.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 8, 1879.*

AUSTRIAN Commissioner asks me to accompany him and German Commissioner on excursion to Kazanlik, starting Tuesday night and returning Saturday. Unless otherwise instructed, I propose to avail myself of opportunity of observing condition of country.

No. 142.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1879, 12·50 P.M.*

ENCOURAGE Aleko to refuse money absolutely to proposed hospitals. They will not get on long on charity. Before you go it may be wise to give Aleko a serious

lecture upon his folly as a matter of personal ambition in serving the Russian or Bulgarian rather than the Turk. Eminent Christians in the service of the Porte are rare; and there is likely to be a great demand for them; while Russians and Bulgarians are sure to prefer foreign Princes.

No. 143.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 9, 1879, 3·5 P.M.*

CONTINUE to press the demands of the Montenegrin Commission earnestly on the Porte.

No. 144.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

(Private.)
My dear Count Károlyi, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1879.*

THE Porte has rather placed us in a difficulty by this sudden change of tone. I had always understood the Circular of the 31st March as meaning that the Porte was willing that the majority of the Commission should guide the Governor in all executive acts; and, therefore, necessarily, in that act—the calling in of the troops—for which, under the Treaty, the Sultan was bound to give an account to Europe, and in that sense, we, like the Austrian Government, have spoken to Russia.

I am, however, quite willing to accept Count Andrassy's view, as expressed in the telegram you inclose. Indeed, the rights of the Porte under the Treaty are quite clear, and in no way depend on the Commission; all that has been said is that the Porte is willing in practice for a certain time to act on its rights only on the advice of the majority of the Commission.

I have strongly recommended Musurus Pasha that the Porte should remain as quiet as possible till the evacuation is complete.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 145.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Montgelas.

Dear Count Montgelas, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1879.*

MR. GOULD, our Minister in Servia, gave of his own accord an answer exactly in the sense of that which Count Andrassy has instructed Baron Herbert to give, and we have expressed to him our approval of his language.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 146.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 772.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1879.*

I HAVE this day received a telegraphic message from Captain Sale, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the new frontier of Montenegro, stating that the Commission is at present at a standstill, waiting for an answer to the identic telegram which each member of it, except the Turkish Commissioner, had forwarded on the 25th ultimo to their respective Governments.

The message in question referred to the refusal of the Turkish military authorities to allow the Commissioners to visit certain spots to which it was absolutely necessary that they should have access for the purpose of their operations, the ground given for the refusal being that these places were fortified. The Commission see in this preceding evidence of a disposition, which they had already noticed, to obstruct their proceedings, and they declare that they are unable to continue their task unless prompt and complete satisfaction is given for what has occurred and those responsible for it are visited with proper censure.

I have accordingly instructed your Excellency, by telegraph, to continue to press earnestly upon the Porte the expediency of satisfying the demands of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 147.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 265.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 9, 1879.*

I GATHER from your telegram No. 215 of the 7th instant that hospitals are being established at different towns, where it is said that they intend to leave 500 men after the evacuation, as being too ill to be moved.

I have informed you by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government consider that Aleko Pasha should absolutely refuse to allow any money to be contributed for such a purpose from the Treasury chest of the province.

Before you leave Philippopolis on your return to this country, it would be as well that you should speak seriously to his Excellency, and point out to him that, as a matter of personal ambition, he will not be consulting his own interests by serving the Russian or the Bulgarians rather than the Turk.

There is every probability that the Porte will require, in the future, the services of more Christians than have hitherto been employed under the Ottoman rule, while Christians who have attained to any eminence in the public service are rarely to be met with among the Sultan's subjects.

His Excellency can scarcely fail to perceive that, in the event of other portions of European Turkey obtaining entire or partial independence, both Russians and Bulgarians are certain to select as their Rulers foreign Princes in preference to men who have served under the Ottoman Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 148.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 10, 1879.*

THE Commission has fixed the frontier from the starting-point near Samakow to the Shipka Pass, inclusive, which it visited on the 4th, quite satisfactorily for Turk.

Captains Everett and Elles leave this day for Corfu and England, there being no further demand on their services.

This information, written at Kazanlik, will be forwarded by Captain Everett from Constantinople.

No. 149.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 9, 1879.*

SIR H. DRUMMOND WOLFF left this morning for Constantinople.

No. 150.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

Athens, June 9, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform you that Representatives of Great Powers at Athens, with the exception of German Chargé d'Affaires, have to-day delivered to Greek Government note inviting them to send Plenipotentiaries to renew negotiations with Porte for the rectification of the frontier between Turkey and Greece.

The German Chargé d'Affaires not being authorized to make the communication in writing has telegraphed to his Government for permission to do so.

He, however, expressed verbally the full concurrence of his Government in the steps taken by his colleagues.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 151.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 475.)

Therapia, June 10, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

GERMAN, Austrian, Russian, and Italian Representatives have now received their instructions to support French Chargé d'Affaires in calling on the Porte to appoint Commissioners upon the Greek question. When may I expect mine?

No. 152.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 476.)

Therapia, June 10, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 95, what demands of the Montenegrin Commission do you wish me to press on the Porte?

Do you refer to your telegrams Nos. 81 and 87?

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 10, 1879, 4·15 P.M.

IN reply to your despatch No. 86 of the 22nd ultimo, I approve your attendance at the ceremony when Prince of Bulgaria takes the oath required by the Constitution at Tirnova.

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 100.)

Foreign Office, June 10, 1879, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOURS 475. Instructions will be sent by next messenger.

No. 155.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 10, 1879, 4 P.M.

THE following is the identic telegram of the Montenegrin Frontier Commission, dated the 25th May:—

"A la suite d'un grave incident, la Commission est tombée d'accord que chaque Commissaire enverrait le télégramme suivant à son Gouvernement:—

"Hier 23 Mai, dans une reconnaissance préliminaire entre le lac et Podgoritza, les Commissaires chargés des travaux ont été arrêtés par l'opposition formelle et absolue de l'autorité militaire Turque. Elle s'est refusée à les laisser monter sur certains points indispensables à leurs opérations parce qu'ils étaient fortifiés, bien que ces points se trouvent dans une zone encore indéterminée.

"Cependant la veille sur le terrain et en présence de tous les membres de la Commission, le Commissaire Ottoman avait, sur la demande du Président de la Commission, fourni l'assurance formelle que des ordres étaient donnés pour que les Commissaires fussent libres d'opérer partout où ils le jugeraient nécessaire.

"La Commission a le regret de voir là nullement un mal-entendu, mais la conséquence d'une disposition générale qu'elle a pu constater dès le commencement, et qui paraît ne viser qu'à rendre sa tâche impossible. En présence de cette situation qui l'atteint dans l'attitude qu'elle tient des hautes Puissances qu'elle représente, la Commission déclare que sans une satisfaction prompte et exemplaire atteignant toute personne à qui remonterait la responsabilité des faits signalés la continuation de sa tâche ne peut avoir lieu."

No. 156.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 76.)

Foreign Office, June 10, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 86 of the 22nd ultimo, I have informed you this day by telegraph that I should wish you to attend the ceremony at Tirnovo, when the Prince-elect of Bulgaria takes the oath required by the Constitution upon taking up the reins of Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 157.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 48. Political.)

Trebizond, May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I AVAIL myself of a recent publication by Yussuf Pasha, ex-Governor-General of this province, to furnish your Lordship with statistics which may be of great interest at the present moment.

There is not, perhaps, in them that accuracy which characterizes European statistics, but they may be considered as representing the truth as nearly as possible, and as conveying more information than has hitherto been imparted to the public.

Similar publications by the Governors of the other provinces of Anatolia would give an amount of useful information on the condition of the country which it is impossible to obtain from other than official source.

I beg to transmit also, in a separate paper, a few observations of my own as a complement to the statistics in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTT

Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Statistics on the Province of Trebizond.

Income and Expenditure for the Year ending 1295 (beginning March 13, 1879).

Revenue.

	Piastres.	Piastres.
Verghi (Property and Income Tax)		7,376,619
Bedel Askerié (Military exemption)		2,456,742
Tithe—		
Trebizond	12,325,182	
Djanik	9,571,455	
Gumushané	2,147,955	
Lazistan	1,121,907	
		25,168,799
Tax on sheep and goats ..		2,281,275
Sundry minor taxes ..		410,792
Fees on petitions, collection of money, &c.		231,881
Sundry incomes		13,740
Revenue of Crown property ..		4,800
Revenue of forests		293,762
Total		38,180,120

Expenditure.

	Piastres.	Piastres.
Administration—		
Salaries	1,429,458	
Expenses	270,290	
Police—		
Salaries	1,468,116	
Rations and uniforms ..	4,632,244	
		7,800,748
Finance—		
Salaries and expenses ..	911,824	
Forest and mines—		
Salaries	206,820	
		1,118,644
Justice		734,532
Public instruction		170,718
Communes		..
Health Office (balance) ..		6,300
Public Works—		
Salaries of engineer and roads	58,680	
For repairs, &c.	450,000	
		508,680
Total expenditure		10,340,122
Pensions, salaries, &c., charged to this vilayet		2,155,305
Balance		25,684,903
Total		38,180,120

Districts, Cantons, Quarters, Houses, and Population.

N.B.—Only males are included in this list.

Districts and Cantons.	Quarters or Villages.	Houses.	Armenians.	Greeks.	Mussulmans.	Total Males.
Sandjak (division) of Trebizond—						
Trebizond (Town)	36	5,060	1,603*	1,799	6,450	9,852
Akché Abad (Canton)	99	6,750	1,334	2,506	14,507	18,347
Yomurah „	54	4,505	2,006	2,343	7,917	12,766
Matchka „	61	5,170	202	6,496	5,698	12,396
Sürmeneh „	51	3,731	..	..	6,619	6,619
Tonia „	19	2,508	..	..	3,978	3,978
Ijevik (District)	125	6,178	..	261	22,062	22,023
Kofi Sekah (Canton)	29	1,792	..	..	5,590	5,590
Maçavra „	24	1,482	..	..	4,792	4,792
Kara Déré „	20	1,103	..	..	3,585	3,585
Ordou (District)	62	4,869	1,901	2,626	9,111	13,728
Perchembé (Canton)	33	2,665	201	214	6,596	7,071
Hadjémané „	46	1,748	27	926	4,783	5,736
Oulouleck „	35	1,582	575	218	3,926	5,019
Beulaman „	37	1,831	176	327	4,165	4,668
Ofi (District)	122	9,171	..	452	25,915	26,377
Kerassond (District)	54	2,892	297	1,793	7,314	9,404
Keshab (Canton)	32	1,763	..	..	7,240	7,240
Ak keui „	19	1,793	21	711	5,051	5,783
Pir Aziz „	14	807	..	124	2,857	2,981
Surmenah (District)	71	7,301	117	1,768	16,513	18,398
Tirébolí „	114	6,013	213	2,934	14,992	18,139
Geurcleh „	52	3,917	59	375	12,118	12,552
Vakfi Kébir „	67	2,129	17	..	7,682	7,699
Bazdi „	36	1,489	..	638	4,577	5,035
Totals	1,290	87,502	9,205	26,921	215,068	250,594
Sandjak of Lazistan—						
Atinah (District)	67	3,264	..	..	8,982	8,982
Hunskeen (Canton)	43	1,930	22	..	6,451	6,472
Hopah (District)	27	1,900	..	..	5,734	5,734
Arhavi (Canton)	41	6,986	..	..	7,625	7,625
Totals	178	14,080	22	..	28,792	28,814
Sandjak of Samsoon or Djanik—						
Samsoon (District)	..	7,483	187	12,753	6,460	19,400
Kavak (Canton)	..	2,612	20	533	6,637	7,190
Termeh (District)	..	1,341	768	224	9,191	10,183
Tekkeckamba (District)	..	10,674	4,960	1,561	20,975	27,499
Niksar „	..	2,567	756	1,011	7,087	8,853
Oonieh „	..	5,501	1,654	1,681	11,097	14,432
Fatsah „	..	3,907	369	644	11,336	12,419
Kara Koosh (Canton)	..	1,694	..	..	5,270	5,270
Bafra (District)	..	6,985	302	6,717	9,672	16,691
Ala Tsam (Canton)	..	2,278	...	1,276	4,750	6,026
Totals	..	47,042	8,995	26,430	92,465	127,895
Sandjak of Gumushané—						
Gumushané (District)	95	6,751	579	2,579	5,020	8,184
Koshus (Canton)	28	1,497	..	360	1,919	2,286
Yaghmoorderé (Canton)	25	678	..	538	1,133	1,671
Torool (District)	50	6,207	..	3,004	3,253	11,317
Gemrin (Canton)	54	1,057	..	761	4,086	5,147
Kelkit (District)	93	5,615	71	510	8,058	9,231
Shirun „	75	4,326	82	650	1,198	3,210
Totals	387	29,201	732	13,181	29,173	43,386
Totals of Sandjaks—						
Trebizond	1,290	87,502	9,205	26,920	215,068	250,594
Lazistan	178	14,088	22	..	28,792	28,814
Djanik	..	47,042	8,995	26,430	92,465	127,895
Gumushané	387	29,201	732	13,181	29,173	43,386
Totals	1,855	178,133	19,954	66,528	365,498	450,690

* Comprising 487 Roman Catholics and 33 Protestants.

Buildings.

Nature of—	Trebizond.	Djanik.	Gumushané.	Lazistan.	Totals.
Granaries	3,022	11,343	85	1,313	16,003
Rooms (in Medreses)	4,528	4,772	1,916	253	11,469
Mausoleums (Turbés)	6	8	1	..	15
Convents (Tekiés)	4	17	2	1	24
Mosques, &c.	1,136	685	160	164	2,401
Fountains	639	717	478	34	1,907
Baths	20	20	5	..	53
Government offices	15	8	3	..	26
Hans	94	92	77	..	263
Houses	87,402	47,382	29,201	14,088	178,033
Shops and stores	5,605	3,078	798	492	9,973
Mills	2,220	1,173	396	522	4,311
Stalls	1,546	2,509	86	1,586	5,727
Barns	5,727	31,707	15,350	1,041	45,825
Stables	3,180	23,254	12,187	548	39,169
Sheds	937	645	2,167	59	3,808
Ovens	5,666	8,995	51	73	14,785
Manufactures	154	45	7	..	206
Boat-houses	76	..	..	..	76
Cafés	431	293	33	12	768
Taverns	81	53	5	..	139
Wells	56	435	..	4	495
Kilns	18	..	..	..	18
Churches	300	314	157	..	771
Bridges	49	6	13	3	61
Sundry buildings	24	40	1	2	67
Colleges (Medreses)	172	45	23	18	258
Cemetries, Mussulman ..	917	608	405	81	2,011
,, Christian ..	50	197	38	..	285
Schools, Mussulman ..	845	660	219	87	1,811
,, Christian ..	55	160	4	..	219
Threshing floors	255	56	3	..	314
Total	125,772	120,771	64,178	20,681	341,311

Division of Land according to Official Registers.

Districts.	Pastures.	Common Forests.	Gardens.	Fields.	Brushwood.	Pine Groves.	Meadows.	Rice Fields.	Olive Groves.	Quarries.	Walnut Groves.	Tithe Woodld.	Cemeteries.	Irish plantns.	Arable Land.	Total Districts.
Trebizond	66	5	55	317	5	6	11	..	..	5	..	13	6	2	5,469	4,929
Ulcha Abad	535	542	11	22,357	5,043	52	671	..	216	21	..	..	46	..	345,697	375,894
Yanikoi	1,190	66	115	13,622	1,111	88	152	..	..	..	16	58	23	..	152,583	181,493
Vakfika	1,697	500	..	21,145	212	..	2,908	..	..	..	3,985	..	29	..	152,013	178,702
Sagra	3,641	70	114	18,534	2,191	..	..	..	..	..	508	..	..	..	89,065	109,602
Tirebé	6,619	180	..	9,130	486	..	..	..	..	..	493	915	..	..	21,867	35,497
Eleh	3,576	78	5,659	2,386	1,971	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137,350	145,011
Ayia Sofiah	1,047	..	331	7,645	690	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	230,705	239,818
Maden	2,631	..	1,812	4,499	2,105	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48,522	57,588
Kara Dere	7	41	282	3,151	1,811	..	..	..	..	1	282	..	..	..	49,164	54,576
Okna	..	..	69	12,331	1,961	..	..	133	..	..	16	..	..	..	402,360	469,376
Gumushané	..	..	..	8,336	1,416	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	236,933	246,836
Baiburt	21	..	..	5,897	1,195	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	195,467	202,580
Ordou	690	..	..	6,891	700	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114,976	123,259
Bibirsun	..	..	..	5,090	767	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182,783	191,376
Ak	..	..	343	27,939	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	20	174,333	188,033
Surmeneh	4,260	4,943	..	36,269	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,436	..	10	32	236,903	313,116
Tirebolí	40	1,589	1,616	33,301	7,141	..	..	..	..	..	3,576	..	50	..	141,201	281,413
Gelevlek	..	191	1,161	20,185	4,073	..	..	..	..	..	1,994	..	..	..	156,042	191,913
Vavuk Kiler	..	256	81	16,777	616	..	..	..	..	..	94	..	..	..	109,288	126,112
Jamik	1,649	10	..	15,469	1,190	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101,027	120,395
Sandjak of Trebizond	28,072	8,156	10,874	268,940	34,314	146	3,792	1,482	219	660	22,121	986	382	54	3,602,903	4,031,025
Aidesh	..	..	52	..	694	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	122,370	123,370
Hamsheen	113	3	634	..	1,998	..	..	154	..	..	29	182	1	3	54,178	57,178
Hoynah	25	..	13	..	4,342	..	..	..	..	..	645	..	..	..	13,352	18,386
Arhavi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	163,773	163,777
Sandjak of Lazistan ..	138	3	739	..	6,970	14	3,792	154	219	660	22,821	1,168	383	4	360,857	365,942
Samsoon	31	2,769	233	51,429	6,279	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	702,863	765,201
Kavak	32	112	491	16,895	241	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	396,915	414,568
Tekarchenba	373	361	284	62,479	2,731	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,154,883	1,235,601
Bafra	230	639	337	32,406	3,959	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	563,958	807,062
Ak Tesh	45	102	50	16,233	1,199	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148,921	166,682
Osmah	561	1,178	81	22,502	738	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	344	..	203,672	228,272
Kara Kiosh	..	45	.. 8	12,180	250	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	270	..	208,465	221,059
Eskiah	..	300	..	13,161	500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	..	380,469	394,451
Terjuah	290	..	..	25,265	244	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	309,133	335,292
Sidkar	242	275	..	18,431	142	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	197,304	206,801
Sandjak of Jamik ..	2,659	6,083	1,849	290,369	21,502	..	176	1,328	..	..	1,168	804	1,054	..	4,460,923	4,783,704

Districts.	Tobacco.	Cocoons & Raisins.	Gardens.	Vines.	Brushwood.	Fire Grounds.	Meadow.	Rice Fields.	Olive Grounds.	Quarries.	Walnut Groves.	Timbly Wooded.	Common.	Rich Pasture.	Arable Land.	Total Income.
Gumushané	94	14	519	18,862	..	..	..	..	219	460	..	1	68	..	318,837	364,452
Keskes	183	..	737	10,476	..	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	327,142	338,759
Yaghmoorderé ..	152	1	14	3,414	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	221,073	225,949
Torool	..	..	..	22,889	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	232,866	255,185
Gourtin	..	..	..	7,061	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156,943	164,244
Kellét	15	..	48	24,110	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	90,532	121,729
Shiran	16	..	17	26,056	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	193,441	235,129
	360	15	1,335	113,468	33	45	1,833,459	1,516	219	460	22,721	624	69	24	1,833,459	2,011,317
	5·4		12	165,196	41	..	..	..	..	..	675	697	65	4	..	
											..	4	1,454	22	..	
	365·4		1,347	278,664	74	45	1,833,459	1,516	219	460	23,396	1,325	1,589	50	1,833,459	2,011,317

GRAND TOTAL.

Districts.	Tobacco.	Cocoons & Raisins.	Gardens.	Vines.	Brushwood.	Fire Grounds.	Meadow.	Rice Fields.	Olive Grounds.	Quarries.	Walnut Groves.	Timbly Wooded.	Common.	Rich Pasture.	Arable Land.	Total Income.
Sandjak of—																
Trebizond	35,072	8,135	10,971	286,900	38,314	126	3,795	1,762	219	460	22,721	624	206	40	3,602,503	4,031,026
Lazistan	159	3	739	..	65,670	..	..	154	..	..	675	697	4	4	360,555	359,942
Djanik	2,559	6,003	1,918	290,569	21,202	..	146	..	..	..	..	..	1,454	..	4,460,998	4,234,374
Gumushané ..	384	19	1,330	165,196	41	..	1,167	1,516	..	..	..	4	65	22	1,833,459	2,011,317
Totals ..	29,234	14,161	14,891	742,525	66,227	126	5,111	1,516	219	460	23,396	1,325	1,589	75	10,257,514	11,187,059

Agricultural Produces.

Kinds.	Weights or Measures.	Trebizond.	Djanik.	Gumushané.	Lazistan.	Totals.
Apples and pears ..	Okes ..	347,197	..	264,065	12,990	624,252
Figs	.. ..	71,892	..	..	..	71,892
Grapes	.. ..	316,869	..	..	32,430	361,209
Potatoes ..	.. ..	63,081	..	..	..	63,081
Rice	.. ..	578,691	928,340	..	5,210	1,532,141
Rye	Kilé ..	82,009	28,380	35,333	..	145,722
Walnuts	Okes ..	179,583	100,670	..	30,885	311,136
Wheat	Kilé ..	112,067	624,750	248,759	2,700	388,316
Tobacco	Okes ..	762,376	2,300,000	320	..	3,062,696
Olives	.. ..	12,345	..	..	..	12,345
Vegetables	.. ..	1,121,317	3,198,020	289,355	65,320	4,675,012
Broom-straw ..	.. ..	57,855	..	..	..	57,855
Broom-seed ..	.. ..	59,150	..	..	..	59,150
Barley	Kilé ..	109,280	35,065	325,197	2,930	472,472
Onions and garlic ..	Okes ..	160,676	343,910	..	..	504,586
Oats	Kilé ..	19,672	530,570	..	..	570,242
Beans	Okes ..	1,696,994	1,623,350	22,350	445,550	5,788,244
Hazel-nuts ..	.. ..	1,620,976	..	..	18,905	1,639,881
Mallows	.. ..	1,086,777	..	..	111,849	1,198,626
Bee-hives	Pieces ..	28,542	..	49,830	7,030	85,402
Peas	Kilé ..	6,140	..	..	..	6,140
Hemp and flax ..	Okes ..	494,812	692,260	1,530	32,763	1,221,365
Linseed	.. ..	23,141	544,280	..	1,470	569,191
Madder-roots ..	.. ..	554	..	..	306	860
Hay	.. ..	11,649,728	609,980	6,940,360	69,250	19,269,318
Indian-corn ..	Kilé ..	1,986,533	1,212,450	20,455	272,775	3,522,213
Fruit	Okes ..	1,239,259	3,252,630	9,620	506,275	5,007,784
Cotton	.. ..	..	4,640	..	..	4,640
Millet	Kilé ..	..	10,510	18,520	113,130	142,160
Vetches	.. ..	..	34,970	20,135	..	55,005
Other grains used for feeding animals ..	.. ..	..	210,650	..	..	210,650
Lentils	Okes ..	..	8,500	9,270	..	17,770
Wield pease ..	Kilé ..	..	144,010	..	..	144,010
Wood pease ..	.. ..	..	10,200	..	..	10,200
Silk cocoons ..	Okes ..	..	..	100	..	100
Honey	.. ..	..	..	..	..	388,380
Tea	.. ..	..	..	..	25,000	25,000

An oke is equal to 2¾ lbs. A kilé is equal to a bushel.

Sheep and Goats.

	Number.	Totals.		Number.	Totals.
Sandjak of Trebizond—			Sandjak of Lazistan—		
Trebizond	597		Atinah	13,943	
Akteké Abad	18,471		Hamsheen	3,603	
Yuparah	15,168		Hopyah	6,311	
Matohka	11,168		Arhavi	6,883	
Sharica	6,551				30,760
Tavsia	2,320		Sandjak of Djanik—		
Rizeh	10,863		Samsoon	36,900	
Kari Sehah	1,291		Kavak	23,845	
Maguera	3,525		Taharchamba	32,143	
Kara Déré	3,738		Bafra	63,470	
Ordoo	23,869		Ala Tean	10,091	
Perchemlé	18,511		Oonieh	21,122	
Hadjemaré	14,031		Kara Keosh	13,594	
Oeleobek	11,047		Fatshah	23,505	
Boolaman	11,861		Termeh	9,517	
Of	24,025		Niksar	40,577	
Kerassond	14,673				304,863
Keshah	20,705		Sandjak of Gumushané—		
Pir Aziz	8,881		Gumushané	30,672	
Sarmenah	19,260		Kookas	6,051	
Tirébolí	41,519		Yaghmoorderé	5,180	
Geureleh	10,092		Torool	32,295	
Vakfi Kibir	8,414		Gourtin	16,331	
Ikisali	8,941		Kellét	36,082	
Ak Kesi	7,277		Shiran	22,673	
		329,000			169,598
			Grand total ..	..	805,196

Mines.

All the names which are not followed by the word Keui or Déré are names of mines.

	Argentif Lead.	Copper.	Copper and Lead.	Manganese.	Iron.	Coal.	Lead.	Total.
Sandjak of Trebizond—								
Canton of Mutchka—								
Hamsi Keui ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stavri Kichlasi ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dariandos ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tchanli	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Canton of Yumurah—								
Simona Keui ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Canton of Ordoo ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Inkadjik	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Djighanos	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Seyadjé Keui ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Fmuhdjik	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Armoudali Keui ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Djavoros and Saghirli Keui	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bulbuldéré	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Canton of Perchembé—								
Elvaï Keui	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Canton of Habismané—								
Eklisia Keui	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Estelhi Keui	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
District of Kerassond—								
Isakrak	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Canton of Keshab—								
Kouchkia Keui ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Surmeuli Keui ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Canton of Pir-Aziz ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
District of Surmeuli—								
Andelik	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Sina	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
District of Tirébolí—								
Kara Kilk	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Aghlik	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Seghenoz	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kizil-Kia	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kurilar	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kirlik	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Yeni Kirlik	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Ismol	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kara Kaia	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Silve	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Ichatal armoud ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Eghri Kar	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Bazelbau	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kizilot	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Déré	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Érat	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Chelkendjik ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kim	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kindj Keui	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kasrallun	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Koutian Keui ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Ghitch Keui	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Kid Kilise Keui ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Agatch Ijashi ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Kourekoon Déré ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Bairekhalu	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Tomlik Keui ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District of Geurelch—								
Hamidé Keui ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Hodja Keui	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kerhdk	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Kara Yurtk	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Ak Keui	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Sade Keui	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Djoljan Déré ..	..	9	1	..	..	..	..	10

	Argentif Lead.	Copper.	Copper and Lead.	Manganese.	Iron.	Coal.	Lead.	Total.
District of Geurelch.—*Cont.*								
Elvi Déré	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Sia dagh	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
District of Vakfi Kibir—								
Kemtchut Keui ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
District of Ibasdi—								
Torta Keui	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Division of Djanik—								
District of Oeniali—								
Kooet	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Ghana	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Murad-el-din ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
District of Fatsheh—								
Ishatchula	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Eski Ordoo	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Aïar dagh	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Ifraz	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Division of Gumushané—								
District of Gumushané.*	21	..	..	..	..	..	1	21
Horns	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
District of Torool—								
Kroun Keui	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ishaïr Keui	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Alasen Ishtir ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kiover dagh	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Tepé Bachi	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Zighana Keui ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gureksa Keui ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chimbira Keui ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nihork Déré	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kuz Havré	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Canton of Geurtin—								
Kondilota	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Déré Aghizi	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ghaz	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Avirdje	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kurk	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Kara Tsukur ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tashlik	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fol	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Kizil Ot	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District of Kelkit—								
Tuighor Keui ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Prenk Keui	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ishin Keui	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
District of Shiran—								
Tersun Ulia Keui ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Shinek Keui	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Total	59	40	3	3	13	6	8	132

* The names of the twenty-one mines at Gumushané are—Hazné Maburasi, Kirk Pavli, Djedefol, Firasidji, Djardir, Kettlunda Bey, Tokoglou, Aba Nicoli, Tiroker, Kokdjar, Hussan Efendi, Amania, Essad Agha, Tessilh, Bayuk Maburn, Nerdibanli, Apud Daghi, Kiskinedji, Bul Kuinoi, Gumuch Daghi, Hodja Havra.

FORESTS.

Districts.	Square Donums.*	Total.	Kind of Trees.
		Donums.	
Sandjak of Trebizond—			
Kerasount	665,000	..	Oak, pine, chestnut, fir, birch, beech, and cornel trees.
Tirébolí	407,000		
Ibasdi	300,000		
Ordou	296,000		
Surmenah	240,000		
Off	120,000		
Aktché Abad	90,000		
Geurelch	60,000		
Kori Schah	30,000		
		2,290,000	
Sandjak of Djanik—			
Samsoon	257,300	..	Elm, oak, maple, plane, ash, birch, beech, chestnut, pine, and cornel trees.
Kara Koosh	166,700		
Fatza	127,000		
Tsarchamba and Termeh	118,700		
Oonieh	84,750		
Niksar	33,000		
		787,450	
Sandjak of Gumushané—			
Kookas and Yogunoz Déré	205,000	..	Pine, oak, poplar, birch, beech, and fir trees.
Torool and Gemrin	130,000		
Shoirna	113,000		
Kelkit	46,000		
		499,000	
Sandjak of Lazistan—			
In all districts	..	260,000	
Grand total	..	3,836,450	

* A donum is equal to 1,100 square yards.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 157.

Observations on the Statistics of the Province of Trebizond.

AFTER the late rectification of the Turco-Russian frontier, and the annexation of the Sandjak of Djanik to the Vilayet of Trebizond, the latter extends between 35° 25′ and 41° 25′ latitude, and has a length of about 270 miles, by an average breadth of between 46 and 47 miles, giving in round numbers 12,500 square miles, or 35,200,000 donums. A donum being equal to 1,100 square yards there are 44 donums in an acre, or 2,816 in a square mile.

The Vilayet of Trebizond comprises four sandjaks or divisions, viz., Trebizond proper, Djanik (Samsoon), Lazistan, and Gumushané, which are subdivided into forty-five districts and cantons.

The three former sandjaks are situated along the sea-shore, and the fourth inland, south to that of Trebizond.

The total population is computed to be in round numbers 1,000,000, which, compared to the extent of the land, give on the whole eighty inhabitants to the square mile, or per head 8 acres, equal to 35½ donums, but this proportion varies a great deal from sandjak to sandjak.

Their respective area and populations are as follows:—

Trebizond, 3,660 square miles, or 10,300,560 donums, 544,300 inhabitants.

Djanik, 3,660 square miles, or 10,306,560 donums, 290,800 inhabitants.

Lazistan, 2,655 square miles, or 7,476,480 donums, 65,700 inhabitants.

Gumushané, 2,525 square miles, or 7,110,400 donums, 99,200 inhabitants.

There are, therefore, as many as 170 inhabitants to the square mile, or 18¾ donums per head in the Sandjak of Trebizond; 94 inhabitants, and 35⅝ donums in that of Djanik; while the average is 27 inhabitants and 113¾ donums in that of Lazistan, and 29 inhabitants with 70¾ donums in that of Gumushané.

Compared to females, males stand in the proportion of 45 to 55 per cent. The

difference against males bears especially on the Mussulman population, which is decimated by conscription and its consequences.

The proportion of male Mussulmans to Christians is, in round numbers, 82 to 18 per cent., the latter of whom stand on the average of 14 Greeks to 4 per cent. Armenians. If females were taken into account, the proportion would increase in favour of the Mussulman element.

The total revenue derived by the Porte from this vilayet amounts to 38,180,420 piastres (311,614*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*). Deducting from it 2,155,742 piastres (21,170*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*) exclusively paid by Christians for exemption from military service, and 238,578 piastres (1,939*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*) the revenue of Crown property and forests, there remains a balance of 35,486,106 piastres (288,604*l.* 19*s.*). This sum, divided between males only, gives per head 78·78 piastres (12*s.* 9½*d.*), to which must be added for Christians 28·64 piastres (4*s.* 11½*d.*), proportion of military exemption, or together for the latter 107·42 piastres (17*s.* 9*d.*) a year.

The total annual taxation of a family, which last is reckoned to consist of 6·60 souls, is, therefore, 1*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* for Mussulmans and 2*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* for Christians, or an annual surplus for the latter of 14*s.* 10*d.*, by the payment of which they evade conscription.

On the foregoing computation the million of inhabitants of this vilayet represent 151,515 families. The number of houses being 178,033, there remains, after each family has been provided with a dwelling, a surplus of 26,518 houses. This balance, together with the number of other buildings (public ones not included), give upwards of another building of some sort or other to each family.

Private buildings compared to the respective inhabitants of each sandjak stand in the following proportion:—

Trebizond, hardly 1½; Lazistan, a little more than 2; Djanik, nearly 3; and Gumushané upwards of 4.

In the whole extent of the vilayet there is a mosque to 1,550 Mussulmans, and a church to 111 male Christians; a Mussulman school for every 177 Mussulman and only one for every 395 Christian boys; but Christian schools, I must remark, are usually larger than Turkish schools. Mussulmans have, besides, 11,169 medressé (college) rooms free of rent, which gives one room to every 32 males.

The relation of the land towards the produces of all kinds gives very startling results. The total donums adapted to cultivation, or from which the populations derive a profit (Government forests not included), is 11,187,059. Deducting from them 118,468 donums of pasture-land, common forests, &c., there remain 11,068,591 donums of gardens, fields, plantations of fruit trees, and arable land, producing together 28,803,150 okes of vegetables, fruits, &c., and 7,068,350 kilés of cereals, oats, &c. Each donum yields, therefore, annually 2·60 okes and 0·63 kilés respectively, equal per acre to 30 lbs., and to 2¾ bushels.

It must, however, by no means be supposed that these trifling yields represent the producing power of the land. Great part of it is left in fallow for years, and that portion which is brought under cultivation is only made to yield the minimum required by the inhabitants to live upon, or rather not to starve.

The produce of the different sandjaks, compared to the extent of their respective lands, gives the following proportions:—

	Okes.	Kilé.
Trebizond	4·02	0·58
Djanik	2·35	0·77
Lazistan	3·73	1·08
Gumushané	0·80	0·33

There is no exact data as to the number of the rural population, but four-fifths, or 800,000 souls, is the very lowest figure that can be admitted.

Compared to the produces of all kinds, the following results are obtained per head:—36 okes = 96 lbs., and kilés or bushels 8·83; and per family, 237½ okes = 633½ lbs., and 58¼ kilés or bushels.

A family is calculated to require about a bushel of corn per week, and the foregoing average, which comprises oats, vetches, and other grains used for feeding animals, if not below the strict necessary is certainly not above it. There remains for additional food 237½ okes of fruit and vegetables, but from which taxes must also be paid, and the other necessaries of life procured.

Compared to the populations of the different sandjaks, the produces gives the following proportions:—

								Okes.	Kilé.
Trebizond	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36·86	5·38
Djanik	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18·24	15·06
Lazistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24·95	7·52
Gumushané	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6·80	7·60

The total number of sheep and goats corresponds as nearly as possible to that of the rural population, it being 805,106, against 800,000.

The proportion in round numbers in the different sandjaks is as follows per head: Trebizond, ¾; Djanik, 1¾; Lazistan, ½; Gumushané, 1½.

The Vilayet of Trebizond, or rather the Sandjaks of Trebizond proper, and Gumushané, are very rich in mines. Those which are known are—in the Sandjak of Trebizond, 21 of argentiferous lead, 34 of copper, 3 of copper and lead, 2 of manganese, 10 of iron, 2 of coal, and 4 of lead; in that of Gumushané, 37 of argentiferous lead, 6 of copper, 1 of iron, 2 of coal, and 4 of lead; in that of Djanik there is only 1 of argentiferous lead, 1 of manganese, and 2 each of iron, coal, and lead.

The Sandjak of Gumushané, whose soil is little adapted to agriculture, as it may be easily inferred from the preceding remarks, has a compensation in its riches in mineral ores. But as the mines are not worked, the inhabitants are under the necessity to expatriate themselves in order to gain a livelihood, which they might so easily have earned at home.

Forests cover one-eighth of the extent of this vilayet, but they are especially thick in the Sandjak of Trebizond proper, where they occupy more than one-fourth of the whole land. The timber and fuel required for local consumption are the only profits derived from these extensive and rich forests.

The tithe, which, in 1869, was only 15,745,790 piastres, amounts this year to 25,168,799 piastres (204,624*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*). There has certainly been in this vilayet an improvement in agriculture within the last ten years; but the increase on the tithe is especially due to the fact of its being collected in the present year on account of the Government. This is an advantage to the latter, as a good part of the difference between the two sums went to the profit of the farmers of the tithe; but the condition of the peasant has little improved.

The sum of 25,168,799 piastres represents the tenth part of the highest possible valuation of the whole of the agricultural produce of this vilayet; and still, owing to the greediness of the Government tithe collector, the peasant pays much more. This surplus weighs heavily on the rural population, or, to speak more correctly, on the poorer of its members, who have not the means to resist extortion. It goes to the profit of the tax collectors and a few rich peasants who conspire with them, and is entirely lost to the Government.

It would be a benefit both to Government and peasants if, instead of the present mode of collecting the tithe on the valuation of the produces, a fixed sum should be levied from each locality, either on the respective average of the tithe for a series of years—say ten, or on the quantity of donums under or adapted to cultivation.

There being now, as shown in the course of the present Report, 11,068,587 donums, the tithe paid this year gives 2·27½ piastres per donum, or 10 piastres (1*s.* 7¾*d.*) per acre, 3·14½ piastres (6¼*d.*) per soul, or 10·70 piastres (1*s.* 9*d.*) per family.

It must be confessed that this is not a heavy taxation for land, more especially if the fact is taken into consideration that the lands thus taxed have not been paid to the Government by their owners; but the tax may be considered heavy in proportion with the profits derived by the peasants, and the little or nothing that is done by the Government to promote their interests.

The substitution, on one of the two bases suggested above, of a fixed sum, to be collected with the other taxation, would, perhaps, also tend to encourage the development of agriculture.

It would in all cases be readily accepted by the rural populations, which in reality are anxious for a modification that may diminish their liabilities and rid them of the hated tithe collector. There can be no objection on the part of the Government to adopt a measure which will diminish its expenses, and is desired by the class of the population that it affects.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Trebizond, May 29, 1879.

No. 158.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 47. Political.)

Canea, Crete, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE the departure of Photiades Pasha for Constantinople on the 20th ultimo not much worthy of note has occurred here. There was a general impression abroad that his Excellency would not return to Crete, and it was even said that he had gone away for the purpose of tendering his resignation. This belief had a direct tendency to unsettle men's minds, some asserting that a Christian Governor having failed to satisfy the Cretans, the Porte would now appoint a Mussulman, and everybody knew that that would be the signal for renewed agitation. It was with much satisfaction, therefore, that I received a telegram from his Excellency the Ambassador stating that the Pasha had been very well received by the Sultan, and that he (the Ambassador) hoped that arrangements satisfactory to him would be come to. His Excellency also added that he was urging on the Porte the making of proper provision for the gendarmerie.

I lost no time in causing this intelligence to be circulated here, and I likewise communicated it to the Vice-Consuls in Candia and Rethymo. The effect produced by the news was most salutary, everybody now confidently looking forward to the return of the Governor, and that not with empty hands. They are aware that his Excellency would hardly consent to return until he had succeeded in wresting from the Porte the right of the island to half the customs revenue, a sum which would suffice to pay the gendarmerie of this part of the country.

Another encouraging feature in the present situation is the successful sale now going on of the grain tithes. Last year no one would bid for the oil tithes in this part of Crete, fearing that they could not be collected, and the event justified their fears. That fair prices should now be realized at these sales goes to prove that no serious difficulties in getting in the tithes is apprehended. The present harvest, however, is far short of an average one, and in some places it has completely failed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 159.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 476.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 10, 1879.

WILSON asks for Berat for Captain Cooper as Vice-Consul in the Vilayet of Adana. But we have already a Vice-Consul there. Is he to be superseded? Porte will not give Berats to two Vice-Consuls for same district.

No. 160.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, June 10, 1879.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL says that Colonel Schepelow brought him message of congratulation from [?] and [? told] him Russia alone took real interest in province, and that he [?] should look solely to it for advice and support, especially as Emperor and Sultan were now on very friendly terms. The Colonel also said that Russian Representatives report apathy of all European Courts in respect to Eastern questions, and that the English Parliament and people are also tired of it. His Excellency added that, on the other hand, he had been advised by Count Andrassy to act independently of Russia, and when I affected to misunderstand him, and asked if that advice applied to his relations with Porte, his Excellency emphatically repudiated the latter construction.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 161.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 11, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the German Chargé d'Affaires, by order of his Government, has to-day delivered to the Hellenic Government a note inviting them to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople to renew negotiations with the Porte relative to rectification of frontier between the two countries.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 162.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, June* 11, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me their Government will accept proposal to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople, but delays answering till rank and name of Ottoman Plenipotentiaries is ascertained.

Greek Minister at the Porte reports that up to 11 A.M. to-day no communication had been made to the Porte on the subject, English Ambassador being without instructions.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 163.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June* 11, 1879.

ARRIVED here last night. Leave Friday, viâ Varna. If necessary, please telegraph, care of Embassy, Therapia.

No. 164.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1879, 2·45 P.M.

YOURS No. 476.

My telegrams Nos. 98 and 99 of yesterday will give the information you require.

No. 165.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 779.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the steps you have taken, as reported in your despatch No. 438 of the 21st ultimo, in order to bring to the knowledge of the Armenian Patriarch the ill-treatment of Protestants in the district of Sert by the Orthodox Armenians, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 166.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 780.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 11, 1879.

THE papers which I have already forwarded to your Excellency will have informed you that the French Government has proposed to Her Majesty's Government, as well as to the other Powers, mediation for the purpose of facilitating negotiations between Greece and the Porte, under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that Her Majesty's Government have accepted the proposal. M. Waddington at the same time proposed, and Her Majesty's Government have agreed, that the mediation shall take place at Constantinople, and through the medium of the Ambassadors accredited to the Sultan.

I have now to instruct you to place yourself in communication with the other Ambassadors at Constantinople for the purpose of concerting the recommendations which you will make to the Sublime Porte, in such a manner as you shall judge to be most likely to insure their acceptance.

The question which is thus intrusted to your Excellency's charge is by no means new to you, and has on several occasions already been the subject of communications between yourself and the Ottoman Porte. You are well aware, therefore, of the evils which have led the Powers to proffer their friendly interposition.

It has long been evident that the line of frontier laid down in 1832 was not felicitously chosen. Drawn through the heart of a region difficult of access, it has given shelter to a lawless population, enabling them to elude pursuit in either jurisdiction by crossing to the other. The brigandage with which, till a very recent period, the Kingdom of Greece was infested, has been attributed mainly to this cause. The evil has been aggravated by the political sympathy with which the brigands have been received in the frontier districts of Turkey; so that it has frequently been difficult to determine whether a particular disturbance was an insurrectionary movement on the part of the subjects of the Porte, or a predatory expedition of the brigands of the Greek border. The frontier selected has unfortunately excluded from the Greek kingdom an adjoining district almost wholly inhabited by Greeks, whose attachment is naturally more drawn to the Government of Athens than to that of Constantinople. The Hellenic Government, when appealed to to make a substantial effort in order to restore peace to the border, have pleaded with much plausibility that the sympathy between their own subjects and the Thessalian peasantry is a feeling with which they are not strong enough to cope. They profess anxiety to perform their international duties; but they appear to be materially unable to prevent their Hellenic subjects from giving armed assistance to their kindred in race and religion beyond the border.

Such a state of things is deeply to be regretted, not only on account of the hindrance which it offers to the progress and good government of these populations, but also on account of the constant strain which it imposes upon the defensive resources of the Turkish Empire. It has been one and not the least potent of many causes which have threatened its stability.

When the close of the Russo-Turkish war rendered a resettlement of the Turkish frontier necessary, an opportunity seemed to be offered for remedying the mistake which had been committed in the delineation of the Greek boundary forty years ago. It was evident that this could not be accomplished without some sacrifice of territory on the part of the Sultan: and it was not without reluctance that Her Majesty's Government suggested a further severance from an Empire upon which so many sacrifices had been imposed by the results of a disastrous war. But it was manifest that, if the Turkish Empire was to continue to exist, it could only be on the condition of carefully husbanding its resources; and that, in being relieved from the necessity of repressing a discontented population, and resisting the enterprises of a permanently hostile neighbour, the Porte would gain more than it would lose by the abandonment of a territory which was practically unproductive. These considerations induced Her Majesty's Government, at the time that they were interposing on behalf of the Greek subjects of the Turkish Empire, to take into consideration also the relations of that Empire with the Kingdom of Greece. In fulfilment of the first object they sought, by reducing the area of the new Slavonic Principality, to save the Hellenic race from absorption. In fulfilment of the second, they desired, by a liberal rectification of frontier, at once to strengthen the Kingdom of Greece, and to ensure the friendliness of its future bearing towards Turkey.

I have explained to you the motives which induced Her Majesty's Government to deal with this question, because their action seems to have been sometimes attributed

to another cause. They are supposed, in some form or other, to have given to the Government of Greece a promise of territorial extension as the price of their abstention from an attack on Turkey in the spring of last year. No such promise was ever given or implied. Her Majesty's Government expressed an intention, to which they steadfastly adhered, of doing all that lay in their power to improve the well-being of the Greek population in Turkey; but they carefully abstained from any language pledging them upon the subject of territorial redistribution. Nor had they any motive for making such a promise. There was no time at which the Turkish Empire was exposed to any serious danger from the enterprises of Greece. The naval superiority it still retained would in any such struggle have been an ample defence against any efforts the Greeks could have made. The only apprehension entertained by Her Majesty's Government in the spring of last year with respect to the possible consequences of a war between Greece and Turkey were of an exactly opposite kind. In order to save Greece from the consequences of an aggressive movement on the border, they found it necessary to intimate to the Turkish Minister, in plain terms, that no naval operations could be permitted against Athens. The efforts, therefore, which they have made to procure a rectification of frontier were dictated entirely by considerations of general policy, and were not undertaken in fulfilment of any obligation, express or implied, incurred towards the Government of Greece.

In accordance with these views, I requested your Excellency, by telegraph, some weeks before the Congress met, to suggest to the Government of the Sultan to make a spontaneous concession of territory to Greece. The line which I proposed, as a basis of discussion, was to start with the mouth of the Kalamas on the Ionian Sea, was to follow the course of that river up to the boundary of the Sandjak of Janina, and thence following the southern limit of that Sandjak, and striking the Peneus south of Zarko, was to follow that river to the sea. The proposal, in the first instance, though meeting with considerable objection on the part of the Sultan's Ministers, did not seem to your Excellency to be hopeless. Unfortunately, while it was under consideration, a change of Government occurred at Constantinople, and the consideration of the subject was, for the moment, put aside.

When the Congress met at Berlin, this proposal, which had been made by Her Majesty's Government, naturally was brought to the knowledge of the Plenipotentiaries there assembled, and formed the subject of discussion. The two terminal points I have mentioned above were adopted by the French and Italian Plenipotentiaries: and were, on their proposition, accepted by the six Powers. The other details, however, of the line were omitted, and the valleys, instead of the mouths, of the designated rivers were taken as indications of the frontier. Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries understood the line to be indicated in a general way, and indeed M. Waddington, in proposing it, made a statement explicitly to that effect. If it was intended to be the formal stipulation of an exact boundary, the description of it was too vague to be of any practical utility. The word "valley" has no meaning sufficiently defined for such a purpose. If it is intended to signify the bed of the river up to its head-waters, the description would be inapplicable to the Peneus or Salymbria, which only bears that name after the union of most of the streams which contribute to its current. The obscurity attaching to the word is sufficiently evidenced by the fact, that the Greek Government have contended that it means a frontier running on the crest of the mountains by which the drainage areas of the Kalamas and the Peneus are bounded to the north. The ambiguity of the expression, however, did not seem to be of much importance in view of the statement made by the French Plenipotentiary, that the line was a "general line," and that "the limits were indicated in a general way."

I deeply regret that the Sultan's Government did not see fit to act upon the proposal which I recommended your Excellency to make in the month of May last year. If it had done so, Turkey would have entered into the Congress with greater moral strength, and probably would have left it with less material loss; and questions of the greatest perplexity, and involving serious embarrassment, would have been withdrawn from future negotiation. After the close of the Congress the opportunity of action was not so favourable. It very speedily appeared that its decisions, especially in respect to the Servian and Montenegrin frontiers, had been received with profound indignation by the Mussulman population of Albania. The lamentable fate of Mehemet Ali sufficiently proved that a resentment had been excited which the Ottoman Government were entirely powerless to control. In the presence of this feeling, Her Majesty's Government have recommended patience and caution in the accomplishment of the wishes of the Six Powers who concurred in the resolution of the 13th Protocol. Without pretending to gauge with confidence the extent of the excitement among the populations of Albanian nationality, Her Majesty's Government were led by the symptoms visible last autumn to view with

serious apprehension the danger of provoking an outbreak among a people whose power of resistance is very great, and whose resolution to vindicate at any cost its real or supposed rights has been frequently shown in action. With the lapse of time the danger has possibly diminished; though even now Her Majesty's Government would have preferred to allow a longer interval for the subsidence of excited feeling. But they have not thought it right to insist upon their views in this matter in opposition to the contrary expressions of opinion on the part of some among their allies.

The Porte has not at present given any indication of an intention to accede, even approximately, to the frontier which was indicated in the Congress; and, therefore, it is probable that before discussing among themselves the precise application of the general indications contained in the Protocol, the Ambassadors will think it expedient first to solicit from the two negotiating Powers an explicit expression of their willingness to accept the "general line" recommended at Berlin. So far as it is possible to judge from the discussions which have already taken place, this task will not be unattended with difficulty. If it should be successful, it will then be the duty of the Ambassadors to decide upon the precise details of the frontier to be proposed to the negotiating Powers. In examining this question, it will be well not only to bear in mind strategic and ethnological considerations, but also to give special weight to those proposals which seem most likely to lead to a speedy and friendly settlement.

The consideration that the territory in question is rather a source of weakness than of strength to the Sultan, and that his Empire would be fortified and not injured by its loss, was that which decided Her Majesty's Government to join in this mediation: and it is that which your Excellency will naturally bring prominently under the notice of his Government. The subjects whom he retains under his dominion in this district bear him a reluctant allegiance. Being Christians, they do not add to the number of his armies; and in time of trouble their discontent is a standing source of danger, and a steady drain upon his defensive power. The disorder which has been chronic in them for so long prevents them from yielding any revenue comparable to the cost which they impose. The Government of Greece, however pacific its intentions and wishes may be, and however strongly it may be bound, alike by international duty and by financial considerations, to a policy of peace, finds in the sympathy excited among its subjects by the appeals of their kinsmen and neighbours a cause of serious and ever-increasing embarrassment. If the Sultan could resolve to make the concession thus urged upon him by friendly Powers he would not lose revenue, he would not lose military strength, he would free his defensive force from a heavy strain, and he would gain a prosperous and friendly neighbour. He would then be free to devote all his resources to the defence of the Empire on the points where in future it may be really threatened. The policy of reducing the burdens of the Empire to the measure of its present strength is the only policy by which its life can be sustained. You will not fail to enforce upon the advisers of the Sultan that Her Majesty's Government, in supporting it, are actuated by a profound conviction that the security of his rule, based on the contentment of his subjects, is a matter of the highest moment, not only to their well-being, but also to the tranquillity of Europe.

Previous communications which have reached us from the Ottoman Government justify the anticipation that they may ask for some security as to the future intentions of Greece if the cession be made. They may very justly contend that if the price of this alienation of territory is to be the friendly attitude of Greece, they ought to have some guarantee that that friendly attitude will be maintained. If they should advance such a contention, the justice of which cannot be denied, the measures proposed to carry it into effect will receive the most careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government; and I have reason to believe that the French Government, no less than the English, if the Sultan in other respects meets their views, will be disposed favourably to entertain proposals for dispelling any apprehensions which may be entertained by the Ottoman Government upon this head.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 167.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 781.) *Foreign Office, June 11, 1879.*

Sir,

YOUR Excellency has reported in your despatch, marked Confidential, No. 438 of the 26th ultimo, the communications that have recently passed between yourself,

Photiades Pasha, and other high officials of the Sublime Porte, upon the questions which have arisen between the Cretan Assembly and the Ottoman Government.

In reply, I have to state that the support which your Excellency has given to the representations made to you by the Vali of Crete, and the advice you have offered to the Sultan's Ministers that they should not delay to satisfy the legitimate demands of the Assembly, have met with the entire concurrence of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 168.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 3, 1879.*

WITH respect to my telegram of the 31st ultimo, referring to the proposals contained in the French Circular of the 19th May, I have now the honour to report that all my colleagues, Representatives of Great Powers, inform me that they are prepared to call upon the Greek Government to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople, in accordance with the terms of the Circular, and that they only await my concurrence before acting upon their instructions. It appears that the French Government is very desirous that a decision regarding the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier should be come to without loss of time. The deplorable state of Thessaly at the present moment renders this all the more necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 169.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a report, taken from the "Messager d'Athènes," of a meeting held on the 25th ultimo, by Cretan refugees residing at and near Athens, to protest against what they call the intrigues of the British Government to obtain the protectorate over Crete.

Special attention was called to a statement of Mr. Sandwith's (*vide* page 18, line 7, "Turkey No. 3, 1879"): "I received several letters from influential insurgents assuring me that I had but to give the signal and the English flag would be raised from one end of the island to the other," utterly ignoring the next sentence, in which Mr. Sandwith says, "I promptly nipped this feeling in the bud."

It was decided at a subsequent meeting that a deputation should wait upon me with a petition addressed to Her Majesty's Government on the subject of Mr. Sandwith's proceedings in Crete; but I took measures to inform the Cretan Committee that I should decline to receive them or their petition, and that, if they had any complaint to make against Her Majesty's Consul in that island they should address themselves to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

SYLLALITHION CRÉTOIS.—Les réfugiés Crétois ont tenu Dimanche une grande réunion pour s'occuper des affaires de leur pays.

Le Bureau était composé des anciens chefs militaires. M. Parthénios Péridis prit le premier la parole pour exprimer le but de la réunion. Le "Blue Book" Anglais, qui a été publié dernièrement, contient des dépêches, a-t-il dit, du Consul d'Angleterre à la Canée sur la Crète. Mr. Sandwith a dit: "qu'il suffit de donner le signal pour que le drapeau Anglais flotte sur tous les points de l'île, plusieurs chefs influents lui

ayant écrit pour demander le protectorat de l'Angleterre." L'orateur à conclu en priant l'assemblée de se prononcer, après discussion, sur une question qui intéresse l'honneur et la réputation de Candie.

M. A. Pappadaki a donné une analyse des dépêches du Consul Anglais, puis a déclaré que la Crète, qui a tant de fois pris les armes pour conquérir sa liberté et s'unir à la Grèce libre, ne tolérera jamais la conquête étrangère; elle fera ce que l'honneur lui commande, ce qu'elle a fait autrefois dans des circonstances critiques. Il a conclu en proposant le vote d'une déclaration au Gouvernement Anglais dans laquelle l'assemblée exposerait le but des luttes Crétoises, et demanderait son insertion dans un "Blue Book," comme une réfutation des assertions de Mr. Sandwith.

M. Ch. Pappadaki a soutenu la proposition du préopinant, après avoir rappelé les manœuvres des agents Anglais pour recueillir des adhésions en faveur du protectorat et les efforts des Crétois pour les déjouer.

Les Chefs militaires Corakas, Criaris, Crokidis, ont affirmé que le peuple Crétois n'a lutté et ne lutte que pour l'union de Candie à la Grèce, et qu'il fera une guerre acharnée contre quiconque entreprendrait de le conquérir.

La proposition de M. A. Pappadaki, mise aux voix, a été votée par acclamation, M. Pappadaki donne lecture de sa proposition. Tous se préparaient à la signer, mais, sur la demande de M. Péridis, la signature de la pétition a été ajournée à Dimanche prochain. Cet ajournement a été voté pour donner aux réfugiés absents le temps de prendre connaissance de la déclaration et d'émettre leur avis.

No. 170.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 4, 1879.*

MY French colleague says that he waits only my concurrence to call upon the Hellenic Government to appoint Commissioners to proceed to Constantinople.

In case I do not receive to-morrow instructions to act with him, he will be obliged to telegraph to Paris the reasons which prevent his carrying out his instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 171.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 4, 1879.*

M. DELYANNI spoke to me to-day on the subject of the French proposal for the renewal at Constantinople of the negotiations for the rectification of the Greek frontier, of which he has so far only received intelligence "officieusement," one of my colleagues having shown to him, privately, a copy of the Circular of M. Waddington of the 19th ultimo.

He did not appear hopeful of any result being arrived at, and said the Ottoman Government had not yet even accepted the basis of negotiations proposed by the Congress of Berlin. I observed that, in fact, they had done so, inasmuch as they had consented to send Commissioners to treat with the Agents of the Greek Government at Prevesa. He admitted the truth of this, but said that they had refused to negotiate on the basis of the points of territory mentioned in the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, from which the Greek negotiators had instructions not to depart, as regards a general line between the mouths of the two rivers, it being understood that all details of actual frontier should be regulated between persons specially appointed by the two Governments for the purpose.

He appeared to wish to impress upon me that an acknowledgment by the Porte of the obligation as regards the two extreme points of the new frontier suggested at Berlin must precede any new attempts at negotiation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 171[a].

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

London, June 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a note which I have received from M. Delyanni, and which relates to his Excellency's telegram of the 20th ultimo, already communicated to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 171[a].

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

Athènes, le $\frac{15}{30}$ Mai, 1879.

Monsieur,

LE Ministre de la Guerre vient de me communiquer un rapport des autorités civiles et militaires d'Eurytanie qui contient l'historique d'une violation de notre territoire commise par des soldats Ottomans et de l'engagement qui s'en est suivi avec nos détachements militaires.

Par le télégramme chiffré que je vous ai expédié sur cette affaire, vous connaissez déjà que nos détachements ont dû repousser l'attaque et que les agresseurs ont eu quelques hommes tués, tandis que les nôtres n'ont éprouvé aucune perte.

En me communiquant ce rapport, mon collègue au Ministère de la Guerre me fait observer que la conduite inqualifiable des troupes Ottomanes aurait pu avoir les conséquences les plus graves, si nos détachements militaires n'avaient fait preuve d'une grande modération en se tenant dans les limites de la défense.

Mais comme il est à craindre que ces mêmes faits ne se renouvellent, le Ministre de la Guerre a envoyé un télégramme au Commandant militaire compétent, lui enjoignant de concentrer sur les frontières, du côté de l'Epire, une force armée suffisante sous les ordres du Colonel Dangly.

Si les troupes Turques pénètrent dans notre territoire en poursuivant des brigands, le Colonel précité les invitera à repasser la frontière, en prenant sur lui de donner la chasse aux brigands avec les forces placées sous son commandement.

Dans le cas où les soldats Ottomans ne se conformeraient pas à cette invitation, on les repoussera par les armes. On agira de même à leur égard, s'ils pénètrent dans notre territoire sans poursuivre des brigands.

Telles sont les instructions données à nos autorités militaires. Elles ne visent que la protection de notre territoire contre toute attaque.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur vient de nous adresser aussi un office pour nous signaler ces faits et la nécessité de faire des démarches auprès de la Porte, afin de provoquer la punition exemplaire du Chef du détachement militaire Ottoman.

Je n'ai pas manqué de communiquer le rapport de nos autorités d'Eurytanie à la Légation de Turquie à Athènes, et de faire ressortir toute la gravité des faits y rélatés.

Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous le faire savoir par mon télégramme chiffré du $\frac{19}{31}$ courant, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie avait déclaré, il y a quelques mois à M. Coundouriotí, que la Porte considérait la Convention concernant la répression du brigandage, comme n'étant plus en vigueur.

Après une pareille déclaration, les troupes Ottomanes n'avaient nullement le droit de pénétrer dans notre territoire.

Mais dans le cas même où cette Convention ne serait pas considérée comme périmée, les détachements militaires Turcs auraient dû, aux termes de cette même Convention, cesser la poursuite dès qu'ils ont rencontré un détachement militaire Hellénique.

Ainsi, de quelque manière que la question soit envisagée, il est incontestable qu'il y a eu de la part des troupes Ottomanes une violation de notre territoire aggravée par l'attaque dirigée contre nos détachements militaires au mépris des avertissements donnés par ces derniers.

Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et lui signaler les graves conséquences qui pourraient résulter de cette manière d'agir des autorités militaires Ottomanes.

Le Gouvernement Royal a donné par sa conduite passée et presente des preuves suffisantes de son désir d'éviter toute complication avec l'Etat limitrophe; mais il a en même temps la ferme intention de ne pas reculer devant l'accomplissement de ses devoirs.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) TH. P. DELYANNI.

No. 172.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 478.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 12, 1879.

SULTAN intends to receive Prince Battenberg with every distinction, and to place a Palace at his disposal.

No. 173.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 479.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 12, 1879.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Sultan has approved decision of Council acceding to demands of Cretan Assembly, and that Governor-General will return immediately with it.

No. 174.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, June 12, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me Servian authorities have been violently expelled from Breznik and Tzn by the orders of the Russo-Bulgarian Government, Cossacks having been sent to assist in carrying them out, although Servian Government had stated they would be withdrawn as soon as the Commission should have concluded the demarcation of Servo-Bulgarian frontier.

Similar proceedings threatened at Veliki-Isvor.

No. 175.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, June 12, 1879.

SERVIAN Government state that Turkish frontier is swarming with armed Albanians, small bands of them making daily raids into their territory, notwithstanding presence of numerous Servian forces.

They therefore urgently request that strong bodies of Ottoman troops may be sent close up to Servian line of frontier. Otherwise, they will not be able to answer for the safety of Boundary Commissioners, who, according to latest information, will very soon begin work on that side.

(Above telegram communicated to Constantinople.)

No. 176.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 12, 1879.

YOUR instructions with respect to mediation go out to-night.

You are authorized to join with the other Representatives in asking the Porte to nominate Commissioners to represent it.

No. 177.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 381.)

Foreign Office, June 12, 1879.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me yesterday to speak about the proposed Greek frontier. He said that the Austrian Government had hitherto carefully abstained from expressing any opinion with respect to Janina. Their present impression, however, was that it would be probably desirable to cede that territory to Greece; but that, at all events, it was a matter on which they ought not to pledge themselves beforehand, and they would be very glad to come to an agreement with the British Government on the question. He promised to send me the telegram of Count Andrassy on this subject, and I said that I would explain our views to him as soon as I had received it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 178.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 790.)

Foreign Office, June 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE informed your Excellency this day by telegraph that instructions are sent to you, by the Queen's messenger leaving this evening, for your guidance in the mediation which it is intended that the other Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin should exercise between Turkey and Greece in regard to the rectification of frontier.

I have at the same time authorized you to join with the Representatives of those Powers at Constantinople in requesting the Porte to name Commissioners who shall represent it in the forthcoming negotiations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 179.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 36.)

Kara-Evren, Turkey, May 27, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE forwarding my despatch No. 35, reporting my arrival at Bourgas, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Commission of which I am a member has continued the work of demarcation to the neighbourhood of the above-named village.

On the 18th instant the point of departure on the Black Sea was decided on and accepted with unanimity.

Owing to the state of the roads leading to this point from Bourgas, which are mere tracks through dense forest, and the exceptionally bad weather for the season of the year, we were a day longer reaching the frontier than was anticipated.

From the 18th to the 25th instant the Commission was supplied with the Russian large scale map, $\frac{1}{126000}$, and with its aid no great difficulty was met with in tracing the line of frontier as laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. The map was constantly checked, and found very accurate.

Though the demarcation line passes through dense forest, the watershed between

No. 178*.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 47.)

Constantinople, May 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 32, transmitting copy of Lord Dufferin's No. 143, with its inclosed note from Baron Jomini, in which note the latter refers to my proceedings with regard to the point west of Karaourgan.

Before proceeding to offer to your Lordship a few remarks on Baron Jomini's letter, I would premise that Baron Jomini speaks of the point claimed by the Russian Commissioner as a point west of Karaourgan, whereas it is really a point west 27° south of that village.

The whole question between the Russian Commissioner and myself, in fact, has been his persistent myopia in being unable to differentiate between "west" and "west 27° south."

The two main assertions in Baron Jomini's letter are (1) that the point west of Karaourgan was determined by common consent between the Russian and Turkish Commissioners; and (2) that the Representative of Her Majesty's Government has no right to determine that point.

With regard to the first of these assertions, it will be sufficient to bring to your Lordship's notice how the statement of Baron Jomini that "le point à l'ouest de Karaourgan déjà fixé d'un commun accord par notre Délégué et celui de la Porte," is at variances with the announcement of Nedjib Pasha, President of the Commission, as recorded in the First Protocol: "Quant au point à l'ouest de Karaourgan il n'était pas déterminé non plus, mais afin de donner une direction quelconque vers laquelle devait se diriger la ligne-frontière, le point en question a été choisi mais pas d'une manière définitive, et que par conséquent il reste un point à fixer." This was furthermore followed by the statement of Ali Nizami Pasha: "Que non-seulement on n'a pas fixé le point, mais que même on n'a pas pu le faire."

After these expressions had fallen from the mouths of the two Pashas, I looked pointedly at General Stebnitzky with a view to eliciting his approval or otherwise, and although this gave him the opportunity of disclaiming his adherence to the views just propounded by the Turkish Commissioners, he contented himself with remarking that he supposed we could now commence the labours of the Commission.

With regard to the second assertion in Baron Jomini's letter, that the Representative of Her Majesty's Government has no right to determine the point in question, no remark on my part is necessary, as your Lordship is the judge in that matter. Suffice it to say that, on finding that the Russo-Turkish Commission had exceeded their powers, in my humble judgment, in laying down a frontier whose terminal point on the river below Karaourgan had a bearing of west 60° south of that village, I deemed it my duty, in anticipation of your Lordship's instructions, to take up the strong ground of a right, if necessary, to reopen the discussion of the frontier thus irregularly traced. To have done otherwise, I respectfully submit, would have been to have acquiesced in a violation of the Treaty of Berlin, which expressly stipulates that from a point west of, and near to, Karaourgan (evidently a point on the parallel of that village), the frontier is to be directed on Medjingert, that is to say, nearly due east according to Kiepert's last map (1877), and not south-west, according to the views of the Russian Commissioner.

But, as your Lordship is aware, I agreed subsequently (after some negotiations between Mr. Malet, Prince Labanoff, and Caratheodory Pasha), to accept a point due west of Karaourgan, on the line of frontier traced by the Russo-Turkish Commission as the point of departure for the new delimitation, on condition that the remainder of the trace to the south should be erased.

Nothing could, I submit, evince so strongly a spirit of conciliation as this action on my part in waiving the right, under certain conditions, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, to reopen the discussion of the point chosen by the Russian and Turkish Commissioners without my concurrence, or rather (according to the Turks) alleged by the Russians to have been chosen. How that spirit of conciliation has been met by the Russian Commissioner, and what advantage he attempted to take of it, have been already detailed to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

the two Rivers Kurugac Su, as marked on the Austrian Staff Map, was not difficult to trace, but owing to absence of good roads our progress was slower than was expected.

Between the Black Sea and Mount Vosna there was only one difference of opinion as to the line of frontier; this occurred at a distance of about 12 miles south-west of the point of departure on the Black Sea.

The difference arose from there being a small clearing, of two to three acres, made by the Bulgarians, commencing on the watershed and extending into a ravine on the side of Turkey proper.

My Russian colleague proposed that the natural line should be left, and that about 400 square yards, comprising the clearing, should be given to Eastern Roumelia. In this he was supported by the German and Austrian Delegates.

The proposition was rejected by a majority of four to three.

I gave my vote on the side of the majority, being of opinion that a departure from a frontier clearly defined by nature, for so small an extent, would probably give rise to future dispute, as such a clearing (comprising about six wattle huts) in the midst of a forest would constantly increase.

From a point about 6 miles to the east of Mount Vosna, and including the upper portion of the valley of the Karaulik, where we are now encamped, we have had no map to go by except the Austrian Staff Map, the sheet of the Russian large scale map containing this part being wanting. Colonel Philippoff has informed us that, by some unforeseen accident, this particular sheet has been sent to Colonel Bogoluboff, the Russian Commisioner for the Balkan line of frontier, but that he expects to receive it on arrival at Adrianople.

The absence of this sheet is unfortunate, as it entails the necessity of our waiting here for from three to four days, whilst as careful a survey as possible is made with the means available.

At this point of the frontier I apprehend a divergence of opinion.

On the certified copy of the Austrian map, and on which is traced the probable line of frontier, there are, in the neighbourhood of Kara-Evren, two lines, one continued and the second dotted.

In the Memorandum furnished to your Lordship by Sir Lintorn Simmons, dated the 23rd July, 1878, it is stated that the divergencies should be rectified on the ground, but that there was no difference of opinion on the principles; the difficulty in tracing the line arose from the difficulty experienced in finding the source of the Karaulik, and of tracing the watershed on the Austrian Staff Map, the only one available at the Conference.

The Commission, after two days' careful reconnaissance, have found the watershed which approaches the continued line above alluded to, and it runs to the north and west of the village of Kara-Evren, and not between it and the village of Karaulik, as shown by the dotted line.

The Russian Commissioner, partly supported by two of my colleagues, was of opinion that we could leave in suspension this portion of the frontier, proceed with our work towards the Tundja, where we again have maps, and at Adrianople, where we may expect to receive the sheet of the upper portion of the valley of the Karaulik, trace and determine the disputed line of frontier on the map instead of on the ground.

To such a course I was strongly opposed, as any divergence of opinion might necessitate the return of the Commission to Kara-Evren to arrive at a decision.

I am myself of opinion that the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin points to the watershed of the River Karaulik and its affluents, on the south, and of the River Laki and its affluents on the north, as forming the frontier between Turkey proper and the new province of Eastern Roumelia.

I further respectfully hold that, for all purposes of administration, that a frontier line cannot be too clearly defined by nature, such as by a watershed, river, &c.

Should a majority decide on endeavouring to find a natural line passing between the villages of Kara-Evren and Karaulik, such a line will have to traverse numerous small streams, with densely-wooded slopes, &c., and could hardly be considered as a frontier, as nowhere would it be clearly defined or easily recognized.

The question is, however, suspended until the completion of the survey.

There are about 200 families (Bulgarians) at present located in Kara-Evren, but before the war the majority of the inhabitants were Turks.

Colonel Philippoff has in the meantime gone into Bourgas, but has presented his assistant, Lieutenant-Colonel Commereau, as having full powers to act as Commissioner during his absence from illness or other cause.

I have further to inform your Lordship that the Bulgarians have offered no obstruction, but, on the contrary, offered every assistance in their power.

I beg to attach Inclosure 1, being a brief Report of the country.

From Adrianople I will forward a tracing of the frontier-line between the Black Sea and the Tundja.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Memorandum.

THE road from Bourgas across the neck of the lagoons is for about 5 miles level and good; the first lagoon is bridged at the eastern extremity, the second only partially so; the unbridged portion is perfectly fordable, with good sound bottom.

After this, to get to Megneckiaj, the road is a cart-track through forest, crossing spurs of hills at steep gradients; in bad weather would probably become impracticable for wheeled vehicles.

Village of Megneckiaj is entirely Bulgarian; inhabitants well-to-do, and did not suffer during the war, with the exception of the church being destroyed, reported to have been done by Bashi-Bazouks.

Road to Salisiere by Saramusa is extremely bad, heavy gradients, and crosses the River Miles-Su twice by ford; these fords only practicable in fine weather.

The village of Saramusa: 60 families, Bulgarians.

Sarisiere, formerly Circassian, now occupied by Bulgarians, refugees from Turkey proper.

At all villages in Eastern Roumelia the Commission was met by a guard of about twenty armed Bulgars, wearing no uniform, but under command of Russian non-commissioned officers.

In Turkey proper, south of and bordering on the new frontier, all the villages have been deserted by the Bulgarians.

From personal observation, Vizico, Kallova, and Kunak, villages from 60 to 100 houses, have all been deserted, all portable goods taken away, but the houses left standing, as also this year's corn and crops.

At Vizico, a number of Bulgarians came to me, stating that they belonged to Gramatiko, about 6 miles distant, and that, like the rest of their countrymen, they were desirous of emigrating to Roumelia, but their village was now occupied by Turkish soldiers, who said they might go, but forcibly detained their wives and children.

These people implored me to intercede in their behalf; I could do no further than speak to Chakir Bey, the Turkish Commissioner, and recommend him to take steps to inquire into the truth of the complaints made.

Chakir Bey stated he could do nothing further than report the matter to Réouf Pasha, Governor at Adrianople.

I am inclined to think that the Bulgarians exaggerated their case, as the following day Lieutenant de Wolski, R.E., when surveying, met a large number of Bulgars, with waggons, &c., and on inquiry was informed that they were people from Gramatiko, emigrating to Eastern Roumelia, and he observed some eight or ten women and several children with the party.

However, the following day Bulgarians from Gramatiko followed the Commission to Kalova, and reiterated their wrongs to my German and Austrian colleagues, who begged me to use all my influence to induce Chakir Bey to interest himself in the matter. I did so; but Chakir Bey considered it no affair of his, and would only repeat that at a convenient opportunity he would bring the complaints of the Bulgars to the notice of Réouf Pasha.

I cannot help being of opinion that it is to be regretted that he did not send one of his assistants to Gramatiko to inquire into the truth of the complaints, as my two colleagues, above alluded to, appeared to place credence in them.

Kurantlik village, formerly Turkish, but destroyed.

Kara-Evren, formerly a village of about 80 houses, the majority Turkish, now in possession of Bulgarians (about 220 families) who have located themselves, awaiting the decision of the Commission as to whether the village will be on the Turkish or Eastern Roumelian side of the frontier; if the former, all the families will probably migrate to the new province.

The Commission was met here by the usual armed guard of Bulgars.

There is also a small detachment of Cossacks in the village.

The country, on the southern slopes of the frontier, is partially wooded, but in the neighbourhood of all the deserted villages above named there is a considerable extent of open ground well cultivated; the pasture lands could not be surpassed, and water abundant and excellent everywhere. No country is more gifted by nature to become rich and prosperous, but it requires opening out, as the roads hardly deserve the name. The best I have seen is one along the natural watershed forming the frontier, evidently made by the Russians to assist their topographists in their survey of the country; this is only a clearing of 10 feet wide through the forest, and will soon be obliterated. The roads leading to the villages in the valleys scarcely deserve the name, and are hardly passable for country-carts in fine weather; as far as I can learn, the only good road at present existing between Bourgas and Adrianople is that round by Jamboli.

In addition to the Bulgarians who have emigrated from the villages already named, I have been informed that the inhabitants of about 100 villages in all have also left Turkey proper for Eastern Roumelia. I have the names of many, but desire to be assured of the correctness of my information before giving them.

(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*,
93rd Highlanders.

May 27, 1879.

No. 180.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Karlova, May* 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Bulgarian Boundary Commission arrived at Banja on the 19th instant, where it was met by officers from my surveying party, bringing with them the work done in continuation of the Russian map (despatch No. 14), including the two passes of the mountains between Banja and Samakow.

On the 20th the Commission divided, a part going by each pass, and turning inwards along the intervening frontier. In this way they traversed all the watershed between Karauli (at point 531 Austrian map) and Summatica, found the map correct, and laid down the frontier line accordingly.

The mountain Cadir-Tepe, which is quite barren and almost inaccessible, was still covered with snow.

On the 22nd the Commission and the Surveying Party left Samakow for Ichtiman. I directed two of my officers to make a circuit from Samakow in order to sketch some ground, which had appeared to me on the day before likely to furnish a defensive position, and which extends from Guzal to the west of Radvil on the Banja roads, outside the forbidden rayon round Samakow prescribed by the Treaty.

The frontier was crossed at a point between Camurli and Hadzilar. In passing, I observed a position on the last range of heights before reaching the Ichtiman plain, which might probably be found sufficient for defence by an army corps.

Before leaving Ichtiman I had time to ride 6 miles south-east of it on the Tatar-Baïardjik road, and found there a very strong defensive position suitable either for one or several army corps.

According to the Treaty of Berlin, the frontier north-west of Ichtiman was to pass in direct line from a certain point on the Austrian map to a point on the watershed between Camurli and Hadzilar. A straight line, however, besides being unsatisfactory as a boundary in so hilly a country, would cut up tracts of pasturage in a very inconvenient manner, by passing across the heads of valleys.

It was agreed, therefore, to follow the natural features here, taking care to be equitable to both sides, and two lines were proposed, one adding a little to Roumelia on the east of the Sophia road, and giving corresponding space to Bulgaria on the west of it, the other passing by a more southerly line of heights on the east of the Sophia road, and taking a more northerly course, in compensation, to west of it. The Commission divided, part proceeding by the Sophia road, part making a circuit to the west. I was the only Commissioner of those who went by the Sophia road who traversed the heights included in the two alternative boundaries, and I observed that the more southerly of the two proposed lines east of it would traverse the last summit on which

would be found the means of defending the defile from the side of Roumelia. I therefore, in opposition to the Russian Commissioner, voted, without giving my reason, for an extension on that side; the Turkish Commissioner voted with me, and also a majority of the others, who professed to consider the subject indifferent.

The means of strongly opposing an enemy's advance into Roumelia at this point is, therefore, given to Turkey.

In this way the Commission proceeded to Kosica, where, some doubt existing as to the precise mountain indicated on the map, it was identified by observations taken by my officers.

On reaching Rahmanli, two passes presented themselves: one, that of Rabanitza, the other the Trojan Pass. It had been proposed to divide the Commission on this occasion, but the majority decided that the nature of the ground at the very high and difficult Pass of Rabanitza was so clearly indicated by the Russian map, that it was unnecessary to visit it, and that the frontier there should be carried forward from the line of the watershed to the northern edge of the heights, at the pass, and up to the commanding summits on either side of it. I offered the services of my officers to compare the map with the ground at this pass; and though the Commission did not think it necessary to accept the offer, I dispatched Major Ardagh and Lieutenant Hare thither; and while they found that the difficulties of the pass and its defensible nature had been correctly rendered, yet, as anticipated in my despatch No. 20, they reported the rendering of the slopes to be very inaccurate. I shall, therefore, repeat my offer of their services to the Commission whenever tactical circumstances may seem to render it expedient to compare the map with the ground.

On the same day, the Commission proceeded to the Trojan Pass and viewed the ground there in connection with the map.

The Commission have thus far proceeded on the principle of examining all accessible and important parts of the frontier, and of laying it down and describing it, everywhere, with such accuracy that no misunderstanding will be possible for those whose task it will be, if our work is accepted as final, to fix the boundary marks. The same course will be pursued in future, and should no unforeseen obstacles arise, which there is no reason to expect, about the same rate of progress may be calculated on throughout.

On reaching the eastern extremity of the Balkans it is proposed to divide the Commission, part going back to Cadir-Tepe to finish the portion thence to the westward, the rest continuing onward to the Black Sea.

The laying down and describing of these portions will be done on the reassembling of the Commission at Constantinople.

All members of the Commission are in good health, an excellent understanding exists among them, and I am confident that all are desirous of executing the terms of the Treaty of Berlin fully and equitably.

No ill-feeling has been shown anywhere towards the Commission; on the contrary, it was met at one point (Lizuna) by the principal Bulgarian inhabitants, who presented a petition (for the respecting of the boundaries of private property in drawing the line there), with every demonstration of respect, and with strong expressions of a desire for future tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 181.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 27.) *Karlovo, May 31, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to offer some information respecting the arrangements made by the Russian authorities for the purpose of enabling the Bulgarian Boundary Commission to fulfil its duties.

The General commanding at Philippopolis desired to know the number of waggons that would be required for the transport of the Commission's baggage and stores, and telegraphic notices were sent to various points on the road in order that they might be ready.

At Tatar-Bazardjik, up to which point the Commission had travelled by rail, two squadrons of the dragoon regiment quartered there, each numbering about 120 officers

and men were detailed for escort. These were drawn up to receive the Commission; one of them was then divided to form escorts for the Commission and for its transport, the other proceeded directly to Ichtiman to await our arrival and to relieve the other. In this way we have always been escorted by one, sometimes by both, of these squadrons. The officers are exceedingly obliging, and orderlies have been furnished from them for each foreign officer.

The present squadrons will continue with us as far as Kyzanlik, where they will be relieved by others from the adjacent military command.

A Russian Intendant accompanies us, who makes all requisitions for waggons and allots them. These waggons accompany us for one or more stages, according as the places in advance are capable or not of supplying others to relieve them.

The Intendant pays for them, and will be repaid by the different Commissioners.

In places where the Commission can be lodged, he makes, in advance, requisitions for quarters and allots them, in case they should be preferred to the tents, which all take with them, and which are frequently indispensable.

At Philippopolis the Commissioners were informed that cavalry troop horses could be supplied for their use. I had, however, before leaving Constantinople, purchased sufficient for my party of a class more suitable for the work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 182.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 6.) *Servian Boundary Commission, Pirot, June 3, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 10th May, I have the honour to inclose a copy of Protocol No. 8 recording the proceedings of the meeting of the Commission on the 12th May, notes of which meeting were forwarded to your Lordship with that despatch.

I also transmit notes of the proceedings of the Commission at the meetings on the 19th and 24th May, drawn up immediately after those meetings by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensberg. Notes of the meeting held on the 26th May are also inclosed. The Protocols of these meetings have not yet been signed, in consequence of the Commission having been on the march for the past fortnight.

The Commission left Vranja on the 21st May, and on the following day commenced the delimitation of the Servo-Turkish frontier at the point on the Babina Gora where the work ended last year. Proceeding northwards, the initial point of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier at Crni Vrh was marked on the 23rd May, and the delimitation of that frontier has been in active progress since that date.

The Commission arrived yesterday, 2nd June, at Pirot, having completed the marking of the frontier to a point near Stol, or about 65 miles of boundary from the point on the Babina Gora, where work was commenced on the 22nd May.

The remaining portion of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier which has yet to be marked is about 70 miles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 182.

Protocole No. 8.

A NISCH le 12 Mai, 1879, la Commission étant au complet et de nouveau réunie, conformément au Protocole No. 7 du 17 Novembre, 1878, les travaux ont été officiellement repris et la Commission a tenu sa huitième séance.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major d'Alten.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bilimek.

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-General Aubaret.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Capitaine Anderson, assisté de
M. le Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Major Velini.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Kaulbars.

Pour la Serbie—
M. le Colonel Zdravkovich, assisté de
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Petrovich, et
M. le Major Velimirovich.

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général Yahya Pacha, assisté de son Secrétaire Gabriel Effendi, de MM. le Major Abdul Hamid Bey, et l'Adjudant-Major Avni Bey.

La séance ayant été ouverte, *M. le Président* a d'abord constaté le vide douloureux qui s'est produit au sein de la Commission dans la personne du regretté Colonel Gola. MM. les Commissaires s'étant alors tous levés pour rendre hommage à la mémoire de leur infortuné collègue, M. le Président a donné lecture de la correspondance échangée au nom de la Commission entre lui et M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de France, pour exprimer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie les regrets unanimes de tous les membres.

M. le Major Velini, remplaçant du Lieutenant-Colonel Gola, a exprimé ses sentiments de gratitude envers les collègues du défunt Colonel pour les marques de sympathies données par eux en cette triste occasion.

M. le Président a donné successivement lecture de lettres officielles annonçant les changements survenus depuis l'an dernier dans la Commission, à savoir, le remplacement de M. le Major Wilson par M. le Capitaine Anderson; celui de feu le Colonel Gola par M. le Major Velini; ceux enfin du Colonel Milutin Jovanovich par M. le Colonel Zdravkovich, assisté en outre de M. le Major Velimirovich, de M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Petrovich. Il est également constaté que M. le Colonel Djevad Bey a cessé de faire partie de la Commission.

La discussion ayant été ouverte sur la question de savoir de quel côté seraient repris les travaux de la Commission, c'est-à-dire à quelle des deux parties des frontières Serbo-Bulgare ou Serbo-Turque serait donnée la priorité, MM. les Commissaires ont successivement été d'avis que la partie de frontière touchant à la Bulgarie aurait la priorité, sauf toutefois *M. le Commissaire Ottoman*, dont l'opinion était de commencer par la frontière Serbo-Turque.

La délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare ayant été adoptée, il convenait de fixer par quel point de la dite frontière seraient repris les travaux. MM. les Commissaires ont été d'avis de la reprendre là même où ils furent laissés l'an dernier, c'est-à-dire à Babina Gora.

En conséquence, il est décidé que la Commission se rendra à Vranja pour y faire

ses derniers préparatifs, et que son départ de Nisch aura lieu aussitôt que faire se pourra.

(Signé) v. ALTEN.
BILIMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVICH.
YAHYA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 182.

Notes on the 9th Protocol.

A MEETING of the Servian Boundary Commission was held at Vranja on the 19th May, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

1. The 8th Protocol was read over, approved, and signed.

2. The Servian Commissioners, reverting to a protest made by Colonel Jovanovich, late Servian Commissioner, against the frontier traced last year in the vicinity of Vranja, said he was authorized by his Government to withdraw that protest, and it was to be considered as "nulle et non-avenue."

3. The Russian sketch of the frontier traced last year by the Commission near Vranja, which included the boundary across the Morava Valley from Poljanica Planina (Crni Kamen), north of Karpina Platina, Babina Gora, near Crni Vrh, was produced.

Captain Anderson produced a map of the same frontier, which was compiled in London from the work done by the English party and from the Russian sketch.

This map was unanimously adopted as the official map of the frontier.

Captain Anderson produced, further, a Table containing the details of the frontier marked last year, showing the bearings of the posts, the distances between them, and the descriptions of the stations. This document was also adopted. Descriptions of the stations made by other Commissioners were to be compiled with this Table, and the whole was to be translated and printed.

4. On the question of making the maps this year, Captain Anderson proposed that a Sub-Committee should be formed, whose duty should be to regulate everything connected with the survey. The following were requested to serve upon the Committee: Colonel Kaulbars, Captain Anderson, Lieutenant-Colonel Petrovich, and Major Ahmed Bey. All details were to be regulated by this Sub-Committee.

5. It was decided to make an application to M. Ristich to appoint a medical officer to the Commission.

6. Finally, it was agreed to leave Vranja on Wednesday, the 21st instant, to go to the frontier and to commence work in the field.

Inclosure 3 in No. 182.

Notes on the 10th Protocol.

A SPECIAL meeting was held by the Servian Boundary Commission, at Teplidol, near the Bulgaro-Servian frontier, on the evening of the 24th May, 1879, for the purpose of hearing a communication which Yahya Pasha wished to make.

The Turkish Commissioner read a telegram he had received from the Vali of Kossovo (Nazif Pasha) to the following effect:—

"News had reached the Vali that the Mayor of Banja had caused to be constructed round some eighteen villages in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, and near the Kapanik on the Servo-Albanian frontier, a fence, which the villagers took to be the new frontier. This step had caused great uneasiness to the villagers, who were inclined to resist it. As this boundary has not yet been marked out, could the Commission proceed there as soon as possible, to prevent all chances of a difficulty arising?"

Yahya Pasha, moreover, said he had explained to the Vali that it was impossible

to go to the Kopaonik now, on account of the snow there, but he deemed the communication of sufficient importance to lay it before his colleagues.

The President said that he had nothing to do with the relations between Servia and Turkey, but at the same time he considered it very important that the frontier should not be in a disturbed state when the Commission went there (which would be in a short time), otherwise they would not be able to work. He also explained that M. Ristich had begged of him to inform him of any matter which might facilitate the operations of the Commission. This affair was therefore evidently one which the Commission ought to bring before the notice of M. Ristich, solely with a view that their labours should not be stopped by disorders on the borders.

This view was agreed to by the German, Austrian, British, Italian, and Turkish Commissioners, but was not adopted by the Russian Commissioners, who said that they would agree to it only on the condition that a similar communication were made to the Ottoman Government.

The President, however, pointed out that while he had the direct permission personally given to him by M. Ristich to communicate with him on all matters which related to the Commission, the Porte had not given him a like authority, and that he had no power to address that Government. He only aimed at procuring a state of things on the frontier, where the Commission was soon about to proceed, in which they could continue their work without interruption.

All concurred in this opinion with the exception of the Russian and Servian Commissioners.

The matter was, however, decided to be a question of form rather than one of principle, and the majority therefore sent the following telegram to M. Ristich, in the name of the Commission, the two dissentient Commissioners contenting themselves to explain their views in a Protocol, which should be drawn up to record the proceedings of this special meeting:—

"Le Commissaire Ottoman communique à la Commission le télégramme ci-joint, du Vali de Kossovo, d'où il résulterait que des difficultés se seraient élevées entre le Maire de Banja (district de Kopaonik) et les habitants limitrophes du district de Novi-Bazar. En portant cet avis à votre Excellence, la Commission exprime le désir qu'autant que possible il ne s'élève sur cette frontière aucune difficulté de nature à arrêter ses travaux. La Commission en informant le Vali de Kossovo que ses travaux commencent dans cinq ou six semaines sur la frontière Albanaise, lui exprime les mêmes vœux."

It was also decided to send the following telegram to the Vali of Kossovo:—

"La Commission a été informée du télégramme de votre Excellence au Général Yahya Pasha; elle n'a pas à s'ingérer dans les affaires intérieures des deux Gouvernements, mais en portant votre communication à la connaissance du Gouvernement Serbe, elle a exprimé le vœu qu'elle vous exprime à vous-même, à savoir, que la frontière Albanaise ne soit autant que possible le théâtre d'aucune dispute capable d'arrêter les travaux de la Commission, qui commenceront probablement dans cinq ou six semaines."

Inclosure 4 in No. 182.

Notes on the 11th Protocol.

A MEETING of the Servian Boundary Commission was held at Klisura, near Trn, on the 26th May, 1879,

All the Commissioners were present.

1. The Russian Commissioner placed at the disposal of the Commission a tracing of one sheet of the new Russian Survey on the scale of $\frac{1}{42000}$ of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, commencing at a point south-west of Trn, and stated that the tracings of the remaining portions of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier northwards would be sent to Pirot on the 2nd June.

2. The Russian Commissioner informed the Commission, moreover, that the general officer in charge of the Russian Survey would be happy to place at the disposal of the Commissioners four topographers to assist in the survey of the Servo-Turkish frontier.

This last offer was accepted.

No. 183.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Servian Boundary Commission, Pirot, June* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in marking out the Servo-Bulgarian frontier near Trn, I had an opportunity of observing the feeling of the population in that district, on which point your Lordship may desire information.

Trn itself is inhabited by Bulgarians, but all the neighbouring villages by Servians. The inhabitants of the villages almost, without any exception, desired union with Servia rather than with Bulgaria. As the Commission proceeded with its work the leading men of the villages presented themselves to the Commission, and expressed their readiness to petition in the name of the people that they might be included within the Principality of Servia, and so strong was this feeling, that I am informed the inhabitants of the Sous Préfecture of Trn have addressed a long telegram, giving their wishes, to the different Ministers Resident of the Powers at Belgrade.

The main cause of complaint against the Bulgarians seems to be that the taxes are higher in Bulgaria than in Servia.

The Servian Administration is still carried on at Trn, but now that the Commission has already marked the frontier in that neighbourhood, I understand that the Servian Administration will be shortly withdrawn. It would appear, however, that the Bulgarians are not yet quite ready to take it up, and thus some further delay may be expected in transferring the Administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 184.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 5, 1879.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 3 of the 5th May last, reporting my arrival at Constantinople on the 2nd of that month, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that I received the necessary Berats for Captain Stewart, Captain Cooper, and myself, from Her Majesty's Ambassador this morning, and that I propose leaving this place, for Brussa, to-morrow.

As I am not aware of the precise nature of the difficulties which were raised by the Porte, I am unable to offer any explanation to your Lordship of the unusual delay which has taken place in the issue of the Berats.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

No. 185.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 241.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, May* 29, 1879.

YESTERDAY I received a visit from the M. Gueshoff who has been employed in General Stolipine's office.

He told me that M. Gritzenko wished to remain in Aleko Pasha's Chancery, but he really did not see why he should do so, as he spoke none of the official languages, and Russian was no further required.

He was convinced all would be quiet after the departure of the Russians, whose financial dilapidation had been a source of ruin to the country.

He asked me to recommend him to Aleko Pasha for employment, and I was glad

at the opportunity of letting it be known that I would not mix myself up in questions of patronage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 186.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 242. Confidential.)
Philippopolis, May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I CALLED to-day on the Exarch. His Beatitude told me that there had been a very critical moment shortly after the departure of the Commission. The so-called military party of the Russian army, and the advanced politicians of the province, had considered this a favourable opportunity to realize their views, and at one moment there was considerable danger of an outbreak.

His Beatitude then, for the first time, placed himself at the head of a political party, so as to carry out a conservative policy. He did all in his power to calm the excitement, and to induce the people to satisfy themselves with the concession of what he considered reasonable demands. Then came General Obroutcheff with the Czar's Proclamation; and though there was still a party of action the General Committee was broken up, and the counsels of order now prevailed.

He thought the people were anxious for rest, and he did not anticipate trouble. I asked him whether the Committee here was in correspondence with the Committee of Moscow. In his answer he evidently wished me to believe that there was no such correspondence, but he did not commit himself to a direct negative.

He considered Aleko Pasha a good man to promote the harmony of the province, and was glad that he had not arrived wearing a fez. Had he done so, even if no disorders had broken out, there would have been a great coolness towards him.

The Committee that waited on his Excellency at Hermanli, finding him wearing a fez, were quite disconcerted, and a damp was thrown over their interview. Here his adoption of the calpac, and his attending the service at the Bulgarian Cathedral, had created an enthusiasm in his favour which would much promote the cause of order and good government.

He spoke for a short time on his future position.

He said he hoped the reforms would soon be introduced into Macedonia. I informed his Beatitude that I fully believed in the sincere wish of the Sultan and his Ministers to do so at once.

I also added that, while I could give him no indication of what the Porte intended to do, I was convinced that the Ottoman Government would never consent to a united ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the Principality of Bulgaria and the Turkish provinces.

The Principality was now in the same political condition as that which till lately prevailed in Servia and Roumania. There the Church had independent heads, and such must henceforth be the case in Bulgaria. He did not appear at all averse to this view, and I think would willingly give up Bulgaria, provided he might live at Constantinople, and preside over the Bulgarian congregations of Turkey in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 187.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 243. Very Confidential.)
Philippopolis, May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to inform your Lordship that I think the proceedings of Austrian Agents do require some watching.

I have it on undeniable authority that hints have been given to the Exarch from an influential Austrian source that Austria would not be averse to the union of the Slav provinces provided it was not brought about by Russian agency.

As the quarter from which I obtained this information is Austrian and neither Bulgarian nor Russian, I can guarantee its authenticity.

I should add that the Austrian Consul, M. Tzingria, appointed here since our first arrival, is a Slav, a Dalmatian. He is a man of considerable ability, and served under M. de Kallay when Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 188.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 244.)
Philippopolis, May 30, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY morning during my absence the Russian Police Master called to inform me on behalf of Aleko Pasha that to-day at half-past 9 A.M. the Firmans promulgating the Statute and appointing his Excellency were to be read, and that during the ceremony the Turkish flag was to be hoisted and saluted.

In the afternoon, on my return from meeting at the railway station the French and Turkish Commissioners, I found waiting for me three Bulgarian gentlemen: Dr. Tchoumakoff, Dr. Vulkovitch, and Gabrillo Effendi Cristoviteh, the Secretary-General.

The latter informed me that he had come on the part of the Governor-General to take my advice on a matter of great importance. It had been the intention of the Governor-General to hoist the Turkish flag during the ceremony. He still had this intention, and would carry it out. But in the morning, when the flagstaff taken down by General Stolipine had been again raised for the purpose, a great agitation had been excited, and it was to be feared that disturbances would follow the formality. At all events the more respectable portion of the inhabitants, whose presence at the ceremony was desirable, would abstain from attending in apprehension of danger.

Gabrille Effendi added that in case of disturbance Aleko Pasha and himself had determined to resign their posts, as they would take it as a signal that the country did not require their services.

I told Gabrille Effendi that the application for advice came rather late, and I declined giving an isolated opinion. I had been instructed in conjunction with my colleagues to advise the Governor-General on such matters as he submitted to us, and should be prepared to do so. But the opinion must be given collectively. I therefore suggested that Gabrille Effendi should at once go to Assim Pasha and suggest to him the immediate convocation of the Commission.

I confess, though I did not say so, I was somewhat alarmed at the threat of resignation, seeing the complications to which such an act would give rise.

I did not believe much in a disturbance, though, of course, such an event was not impossible; but the resignation of Aleko Pasha and that of his *locum tenens* was a real danger, and still more formidable if the allegation could be made that it was owing to any action on the part of the Commission. Aleko Pasha had very adroitly made a strength of his weakness, and, by the threatened resignation, was endeavouring to throw on the Commission the responsibility either of an act necessarily displeasing to the Sultan, or of one unpopular among the Bulgarians.

We met at 10 o'clock at Assim Pasha's house and discussed the question at length. We were all animated with the same intentions, viz., that of leaving with Aleko Pasha the responsibility of judging as to the emergency of the case while giving him a loophole of escape.

We were told by Assim Pasha that it was not the habit to hoist the flag over Turkish konaks, but only on fortresses or barracks. In fact, the formality had emanated from the over-zeal of Aleko Pasha, the mere reading of the two Firmans being a sufficient exercise of authority on the part of the Sultan.

At the outset I proposed that we should decide by majority, and the proposal was accepted on the understanding by Prince Tzeretelew that this should not form a precedent to prejudice our future plan of action. But it was plain from the first that our views were identical, and, though the discussion was long, it turned more on the wording than the substance of our answer to the Governor-General.

We at length hit upon a formula which M. de Kallay, our present President, undertook to forward at once to the konak.

It is as follows:—

"Comme dans le fait de hisser ou de ne pas hisser le pavillon Ottoman pendant

la lecture du Firman Impérial, il ne s'agit que d'une formalité, sans influence sur l'introduction du Statut Organique et ne pouvant dépendre que de l'initiative du Gouverneur-Général, la Commission est d'avis que celui-ci est seul compétent pour décider à quel point l'une ou l'autre de ces alternatives est opportune dans le moment actuel."

I have learnt from a good source that Aleko Pasha intends to-day to declare in his speech that whatever may happen he will never apply for the introduction of Turkish troops into the province.

Thus one principal duty assigned to the Commission is done away with, viz., that of advising the Governor-General on this point.

I fully appreciate the great difficulties with which Aleko Pasha has to contend. He wishes, I believe, to preserve the rights of the Sultan; but he is left without strength or material force to deal with a population excited against the Sultan and in the presence of forces which have done so much to upset his rule and Empire. A certain temporization is necessary and inevitable, but I think that hitherto it has not been exercised with great dignity or tact.

I confess I am very apprehensive of Aleko resigning his place. His incessant complaints of the smallness of his salary, of the discomforts of his house, &c., show that he does not think his appointment a very great prize, while his knowledge of the inconveniences to which Europe would be placed by his resignation may induce him, if not to resign, at all events to make the threat whenever he wishes to force the Commission to cover his indecision.

I am therefore more than ever of opinion that things will go on far more satisfactorily when he is left face to face with his responsibilities and to bear his own burden alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—I should add that the threat of resignation was not only made privately to me by Gabrille Effendi, but announced formally to the Commission by Assim Pasha.

H. D. W.

No. 189.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 245.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 30, 1879.*

TO-DAY the ceremony of reading the Sultan's Firman took place at the konak. The Commissioners, Consuls, and notables of the place, together with the chiefs of the religious communities, were present.

The Sultan's flag was not hoisted, and Aleko Pasha did not make the declaration he originally proposed as to his intention of never calling in Turkish troops.

I inclose a proof translation of his speech as originally drawn up, of which this is the only copy in my possession; and I also inclose copies of the speech, as read by Mr. Peter Dimitroff, the head of the Governor-General's Chancery, and officially distributed.

The Greeks are very much offended, and, I think, with justice, at the speech not having been read in Greek, in conformity with the provisions of the Organic Statute. Printed copies in Greek were, however, distributed.

M. de Kallay and myself propose to make some remarks on the subject at the first meeting of the Commission fixed for to-morrow.

There was little enthusiasm. An attempt was made at cheering, which was not very successful.

One man, whom I recognized as an active member of the deputations that used to wait on the Commissioners, raised a cry of, as I think I heard it, "Hurrah for Prince Alexander Vogorides, a Bulgarian," but which others say was for Prince Alexander of Bulgaria. Whatever the formula, the cry met with no response.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 190.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 246. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 30, 1879.*

ALEKO PASHA has just called on me. Entirely ignoring the messages he had sent us, he complained that the Commission had left with him the decision as to the hoisting of the flag.

I told his Excellency it was impossible for us to decide as to whether there was danger or not.

He said that the Russians always declared there would be danger, and put difficulties in his way.

For instance, he had wished to salute the Firman with twenty-one guns, but had been told by Prince Tzeretelew there was no powder, a statement confirmed to me from another quarter, from which I also learn that he had applied to the Russian staff for powder, which had been refused.

His Excellency told me that his heart bled for the Turks, and that he held the Russians in detestation; but begged me not to mention this, as it would damage him with the Russians, with whom he is bent on keeping on good terms.

He told me that, after the nomination to-morrow of his Privy Council, he would name a Commission to examine into the titles of land, so as to place the rightful owners in possession of their property.

The rest of our conversation turned generally on Turkey.

I learn that when General Vitalis gave the order for presenting arms on the reading of the Firman the Russian officer refused to give it to the men, alleging as his reason that he had been told by Colonel Kissiakoff not to do so. On being threatened with dismissal by General Vitalis he gave the order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 191.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 247.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 31, 1879.*

ASSIM PASHA told me yesterday that the Porte intended to summon the Commission shortly to Constantinople to give an opinion on the reforms that have been prepared for the other provinces under Article XXIII.

I told his Excellency that I hoped no mistake would occur on this subject.

Article XXIII laid down that Special Commissions should be formed in which the indigenous element was to be largely represented, to elaborate the details of these new regulations on each province.

I did not think that this stipulation would be fulfilled by the submission of Ordinances, however good, drawn up at the Porte without having been submitted to these Special Commissions, and I doubted whether the European Commission would entertain them.

In fact, M. de Braunschweig informed me that he would positively decline to enter into the consideration of proposals presented in such a form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 192.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 248.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, May 31, 1879.*

A MOVEMENT has been set on foot among the Bulgarians, and headed, I believe, by the Metropolitan Panaretos, to petition Aleko Pasha to retain M. Schmidt as Director-General of Finance.

M. Schmidt's honesty and courage, as well as his careful administration of the public funds under difficulties of no slight nature, have secured him the confidence of the Bulgarians, to whom, as well as to M. Schmidt, this movement is highly creditable.

Both Aleko Pasha and Gabrille Effendi have informed me that M. Schmidt is to be retained, at all events till the meeting of the First Assembly.

The Exarch informs me that he is strongly in favour of this appointment, as he does not think there is any Bulgarian capable of holding it, and I suppose they will not have recourse to a Greek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 193.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 249.)
Philippopolis, May 31, 1879.

My Lord,

TWO gentlemen named Veneziani have been sent to Turkey as agents of Baron de Hirsch and of the Israelitish Alliance, to effect the repatriation of the Jewish refugees.

I have seen both, one here, the other at Constantinople. They have informed me that their mission has been difficult. At Kyzanlik the inhabitants do not object to the return of these refugees, but at Eski-Zaghra and Carlova there appears to exist a very excited feeling against it.

I have spoken both to Gabril Effendi and the Exarch on the subject, who tell me they have done, and are doing, what they can to facilitate M. Veneziani's mission, but, truly or untruly, certain allegations were made against the Jews during the war of complicity with the Turks, and this, rather than any religious fanaticism, has created the feeling against them.

They say that this will be allayed in time if matters are not precipitated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 194.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 250.)
Philippopolis, May 31, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Greek Metropolitan called yesterday with a Greek gentleman, both very indignant at the omission of the Greek version of the Firman during the ceremony of promulgation.

I told them I had also regretted it, and that the Commissioners were prepared to make some observations on the subject. But I was convinced the omission had arisen from oversight, and I thought that it would be unwise to quarrel with the Government.

One effect of the Statute is curious. I was informed by the gentleman who came with the Archbishop, and who has considerable possessions here, that he himself and some other opulent Greeks, Hellenic subjects but domiciled here, were seriously thinking of taking steps to assume the "indigénat" in order to take part in the affairs of the province where their property lies. The Greek Consul has been still more prompt in availing himself of the Statute in his own interests. Seeing from an early copy that a salt monopoly was established, he has brought a hundred waggon loads of salt, which he hopes to sell to the Government at a considerable profit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 195.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 251.)
Philippopolis, June 1, 1879.

My Lord,

AT the meeting of the Commission yesterday I brought forward the proposals sketched out in your Lordship's despatch No. 227 of the 8th ultimo, and which will be found in the "Compte Rendu" No. 66 herewith inclosed.

The question of a decision by a majority was first discussed, Prince Tzeretelew making two reserves:—

1. That the majority should be an absolute majority, *i.e.*, of four.
2. That the points of consultation should be clearly defined.

After some discussion, Baron de Ring brought forward the motion, copy of which is inclosed, alleging as his reason for so doing his instructions, a copy of which, as well as a copy of Prince Tzeretelew's, I also have the honour to transmit to your Lordship.

The effect of this motion, if carried, would be to force the Governor-General to submit to the previous sanction of the Commission, day by day, every step he proposes to take in connection with the Organic Statute, while the abstention of one or two members of the Commission, when a vote was given, might produce instances in which the Commission would give no answer at all when the advice was applied for.

Baron de Ring was very firm in his motion, which he declared to be the natural result of his instructions. He declared that unless his view was accepted by the Commission he would not join any sitting for the purpose of giving advice to Aleko Pasha until the Governments had settled the point. He said it would be impossible for the decisions of the Commission not to be considered binding on the Governor-General, and equally so, that the Commission should be restricted in its advice to such points only as the Governor-General thought fit to bring before it.

I telegraphed to your Lordship for instructions, as did all the Commissioners to their Governments.

To-day, calling on Baron de Ring with Mr. Michell, I thought he had greatly changed his tone. He said that the declaration he made as to not attending the sittings was to assist M. de Kallay in obtaining instructions which Count Andrassy has never sent him. He considered it would be absurd for the Representatives of Europe to be called upon to give advice, which could be followed or not by the Governor-General at his choice. The force of his proposal had been much exaggerated. He had no idea of entering into the daily details of administration, but, having been sent here, the Commission, if any good was to be done, should give their advice to the Governor-General on matters connected with the Statute, which involved any important point of policy.

I suggested that what he proposed was that the Commission should in fact act as the "Comité Permanent." To this he assented.

Aleko Pasha seems very anxious that the Commission should advise him very largely. It is clear that this desire comes from a wish to cover his responsibility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 195.

Compte-Rendu.—Séance No. 66, du 2/1 Mai, 1879 (1 Djémazi-ul-Akhir, 1296), au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï, à Constantinople.

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le compte-rendu de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha annonce à ses collègues que le Firman nommant Aleko Pacha Vogoridès Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie-Orientale, a été signé par Sa Majesté le Sultan.

"Ce document," ajoute-t-il, "sera lu à Philippopoli par le nouveau Gouverneur en même temps que le Firman promulguant le Statut Organique, qui, d'ailleurs, a été déjà sanctionné."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff demande à la Commission de mettre à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance les questions suivantes :—

1. Le Gouverneur-Général, s'il juge nécessaire d'appeler les troupes Turques dans la province pour y maintenir l'ordre ou affermir l'autorité du Sultan, doit-il au préalable prendre l'avis de la Commission ?

2. La Commission doit-elle émettre un avis toutes les fois qu'elle est consultée par le Gouverneur-Général ?

3. La Commission doit-elle décider de toutes les questions à la majorité ou à l'unanimité des voix ?

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne se prononce d'avance pour la première alternative.

La Commission décide que ces trois questions seront mises à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne tient à faire observer, à propos du Protocole No. 63, qu'il ne souscrit pas complétement à la déclaration du Baron de Ring relative aux droits des tiers intéressés dans la question de la Forêt de Bellova. D'après lui, la Commission n'a d'ailleurs pas d'avis à émettre sur une question qui ne regarde que les Tribunaux. Il se rallie en définitive à l'opinion exprimée sur cette affaire par les Délégués de Turquie dans la séance du 21 Avril, s'en rapportant uniquement à cet égard aux Stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

M. de Kallay dit aussi que s'il avait entendu le passage du Protocole No. 63 visé par son collègue de la Grande Bretagne, il n'aurait pu l'accepter. Il avait cru comprendre que son collègue de France réservait les droits du Baron de Hirsch, tandis qu'il semble maintenant que le Baron de Ring réserve les droits des villageois. Il partage l'avis des Commissaires de Turquie.

M. de Ring dit qu'il n'attache pas d'importance à ce que les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et de la Grande Bretagne reviennent sur le Protocole de la soixante-

troisième séance. Un avis de la Commission Européenne ne peut, en pareille matière, lier les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale, qui sauront faire leur devoir.

Les Commissaires de Turquie maintiennent les réserves faites par eux à la séance du 21 Avril.

M. de Coutouly lit à la Commission le télégramme suivant que vient de lui adresser M. Schmidt :—

"(Télégramme.)

"Budget expiré fin Avril. Est-il prolongé ? Puis-je continuer dépenses ? Dois-je envoyer ? Commission siége-t-elle encore ? Son retour est-il décidé et fixé ?"

La Commission charge M. de Coutouly d'adresser la réponse suivante au Directeur-Général des Finances :—

"(Télégramme.)

"J'ai communiqué votre dépêche à la Commission, qui retournera au commencement de la semaine prochaine à Philippopoli. Continuez jusqu'à nouvel ordre à régler les dépenses figurant sur les états du budget expiré, mais abstenez-vous de toute dépense extraordinaire.

(Signé) "COUTOULY."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, qui aura lieu à Philippopoli, les trois questions posées par Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

La séance est levée à 7 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 195.

Motion.

LA Commission Européenne a pour mission de veiller à l'introduction du Statut Organique; sur toutes les questions y relatives le Gouverneur-Général est tenu à lui demander un avis préalable. Cet avis, arrêté à la majorité absolue des voix, est obligatoire pour le Gouverneur-Général. Quant au choix du personnel administratif, il doit se faire sur la responsabilité personnelle du Gouverneur-Général.

Inclosure 3 in No. 195.

M. Waddington to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

(Télégraphique.) *Paris, le 25 Mai*, 1879.

LE Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg propose de définir ainsi qu'il suit la situation respective de la Commission Européenne et du Gouverneur de la Roumélie Orientale. La Commission Européenne a pour mission de veiller à l'introduction du Statut Organique, sur toutes les questions y relatives elle est appelée à donner un avis préalable. Le Gouverneur-Général ne peut, en cas de désordres, appeler les troupes Ottomanes sans consentement; la majorité doit être obligatoire pour le Gouverneur-Général. Quant au choix du personnel administratif, il doit se faire sous la responsabilité du Gouverneur-Général.

Nous n'avons, en ce qui nous concerne, aucune objection à élever contre cette proposition. Je vous prie d'en donner avis de ma part à M. le Baron de Ring.

Inclosure 4 in No. 195.

M. de Giers to M. Onou.

Livadia, le 10 Mai, 1879.

(Télégraphique.)
(En clair.)

POUR le Prince Tzeretelew. Reçu votre télégramme du 10.

(En chiffres.)

LA mission de la Commission Européenne est de veiller à l'introduction du Statut Organique. Elle est appelée à donner son avis préalable sur toutes les questions y relatives. Sans son consentement le Gouverneur-Général ne peut, en cas de désordres, appeler les troupes Ottomanes. Nous pensons que la majorité devrait être obligatoire pour le Gouverneur-Général. Le choix du personnel administratif doit se faire sous la responsabilité exclusive du Gouverneur-Général.

No. 196.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 253.)

Philippopolis, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 247 of the 22nd ultimo, informing me that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Michell, C.B., Her Majesty's Consul-General at this place, in succession to Lord Donoughmore, to be Assistant-Commissioner on the European Commission constituted under Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have presented Mr. Michell in this capacity to Aleko Pasha and the Commissioners, informing them at the same time that, in case of my absence, Mr. Michell will perform the duties of Her Majesty's Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 197.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 254.)

Philippopolis, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

AT the meeting of the Commission to-day I presented Mr. Michell as Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner, and as being empowered in my absence to act as Commissioner.

M. Vernoni proposed that the Commission should hand over to Aleko Pasha the financial administration.

A somewhat long discussion ensued, as Prince Tzeretelew had some objections to this course.

On his suggestion, an explanation of reasons was added to M. Vernoni's motion, which was carried unanimously. Prince Tzeretelew, however, placed on record a statement to the effect that while he considered the decision not entirely in harmony with the Treaty, he yielded to the unanimous opinion of his colleagues, considering, while reserving the theory, that the decision was practically useful.

To-morrow we have a sitting, at my request, to discuss the expenses of the occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—A vote of thanks was passed to the Committee of Finance, which I was particularly requested to communicate to Lord Donoughmore.

H. D. W.

No. 198.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 127.)

Belgrade, May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

M. RISTICH has informed me that, owing to an unprovoked murder committed on the person of a defenceless Mahommedan inhabitant of Pirot, orders have been issued to restore their arms to the Mussulmans in that district. He likewise told me the Government have decided that the vacouf property in this district is to be administered by, and for the sole benefit of, the Mahommedan community, under the supervision of the local authorities.

I expressed to his Excellency my satisfaction at the conciliatory disposition on the part of the Servian Government, of which these judicious measures would seem to give proof, although his statement does not quite agree with others which have reached me of the treatment accorded to the remnants of the Mussulman population still to be found in the Principality; and it is questionable how far the Servian Government is justified in taking upon itself to decide questions which ought properly to have been submitted to a Mixed Commission, in conformity with Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 199.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 128.)

Belgrade, May 30, 1879.

My Lord,

M. NICOLAIDES, late Consul for Turkey at Brindisi, has arrived here, on his way to Nisch, where he has been appointed to act as Ottoman Consul-General; but the Servian Government have declined to allow him to proceed to his post, on the plea that, pending the conclusion of a formal Consular Convention between the two Governments, they cannot grant him his exequatur.

The real ground, however, of their refusal is the fear he may bring to the notice of the Powers, through the Porte, the illegal methods adopted by them to dispossess and drive away the few remaining Mussulman inhabitants of that province, and thus cause them serious embarrassment.

Serned Bey, who has just returned from his official visit to the Prince at Nisch, tells me that he found means of communicating personally with several of his countrymen there. They informed him there were not above 100 Mahommedan families left in the place, and that their position had been made so irksome to them that they would all emigrate the moment some kind of an arrangement could be come to for the sale of their landed property.

They had been, for the most part, turned out of their houses, on the pretext that they were required for Government purposes, or that they would have to be pulled down on the score of public improvements. They no longer appealed to the authorities for protection, as they never succeeded in obtaining any redress. In fact, they were treated much as if they were prisoners of war, being under continual police supervision, and not being allowed to go outside the town on any pretext whatever, so that they were unable to look after their farms or to collect their rents.

According to his account, the value of the landed property owned by Mussulmans in this province is roughly estimated to be about £ T. 1,000,000, or 900,000*l.* sterling, and it seems that negotiations have been going on for some time with regard to its transfer.

The Servian authorities have proposed that the revenue on the above sum should be capitalized, and obligations or bonds issued to the same amount, the interest or sinking fund of which should be paid by the Servian occupiers of the land.

To this proposal the Mussulman proprietors object, on the ground that they would have no security for the continued payment by the Servian peasants of the sum required to meet the interest and sinking fund, unless the Servian Government undertook to collect and guarantee it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 200.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 132.)
Belgrade, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 53 of the 24th ultimo relative to the Albanian population of the annexed territories, I lost no time in calling upon M. Ristich, and informing his Excellency that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government Servia will incur a serious responsibility if measures are not adopted in order to permit the peaceable return to their homes of those who have been driven away by the events of the late war. I added that I had good reason to know the views I had expressed were also held by the other Powers, and that, in her own interest, Servia ought at once to come to an amicable arrangement for the reinstatement of the Albanian border population in the houses and lands rightfully belonging to them.

His Excellency assured me he would immediately lay the matter before Prince Milan, and communicate to me His Highness' decision the moment it reached him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 201.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)
Belgrade, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 132 of this same date, on the subject of the permission to be granted to the Albanian refugees to return to Servia, I have to state that the question resolves itself, in reality, into a struggle for power between the Ministry and Prince Milan's influential military adviser, General Kosta Protitch, who, besides being His Highness' first Aide-de-camp, is, or rather has been until lately, Chief of the general Staff of the army. It is mainly under this officer's advice that, in opposition to the views of M. Ristich and M. Radivoi Milojkovitch, the two leading members of the Cabinet, these unfortunate people have been subjected to such cruel treatment.

Prince Milan will, I venture to hope, have eventually to give way, as from every point of view the conduct of Servia in this matter is indefensible, and will not meet with support in any quarter, if I may judge from the language held by all my colleagues without exception; but His Highness' temper is so imperious, and General Protitch's ascendancy over him so complete, that I have deemed it best to act with great reserve.

I have therefore deferred presenting a Memorandum I have drawn up on the question, lest it should needlessly give offence by being looked upon as an indictment of the proceedings of Servia; but I have unofficially warned M. Ristich that, in case His Highness should return an unfavourable reply to the representations I have addressed to his Excellency in the name of Her Majesty's Government, I will be compelled to place on record certain facts of an exceedingly unpleasant nature for the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 202.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 135. Confidential.)
Belgrade, June 4, 1879.

My Lord,

FOR some time back there have been unmistakable signs that Russian influence in this country is rapidly on the decline. The stoppage of the subsidies, the want of interest taken in forwarding the national aspirations of Servia, and, above all, the marked preference openly displayed in favour of Bulgaria, have one and all contributed to hasten a result on which I had long confidently reckoned.

The Servians are now gradually arriving at the conviction that they have nothing further to hope from Russia in the near future; that she merely made use of them for her own purposes, as shown by the dispositions of the Treaty of San Stefano, and her attitude at the Congress of Berlin; and that, in every question arising between them and their Bulgarian neighbours, her powerful influence will be thrown in the scale against them.

With reference to the latter point, I may quote M. Ristich's own words to me as illustrating the state of feeling here. He began by complaining bitterly, as he has often done before, of the high-handed conduct of the Russian Government in the matter of the dispute respecting the proper position of the old frontier at Veliki Izvor, and of the proceedings of Colonel Kaulbars, the Russian Boundary Commissioner, for the partiality he evinced by his persistent efforts on every occasion to influence the decisions of the Commissioners in favour of Bulgaria, and to the detriment of Servia; for his refusal to receive the deputations of the inhabitants of the district of Trn when they came to petition to be allowed to remain united to Servia, whilst they readily obtained a patient hearing from all his colleagues without exception; and for his at once posting off to Sophia to complain of these popular demonstrations to the Russian Governor-General, who, in his turn, had caused angry reproaches to be addressed to the Servian Government through the Russian Minister here.

His Excellency then proceeded to say he knew, as a fact, that the Emperor of Russia had expressed himself in the following terms with regard to the general line of policy he wished his Agents in the East to pursue:—"That purely Russian interests should, above all others, engage their attention, and then those of Servia; but that he purposely omitted mentioning Bulgaria, because, in his estimation, they were in every way identical with those of Russia herself."

I may also add, as a significant symptom of the change that has recently come over popular feeling here towards Russia, that the number of scholars attending the course of lectures on Russian language and literature at the High School of Belgrade has fallen off from upwards of two score to the small number of three.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No 203.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 136.)
Belgrade, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a note I have addressed to M. Ristich, acknowledging the receipt of his communication of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of the rectification of the Servo-Albanian frontier with a view to its being made more secure.

I have availed myself of this opportunity to inform his Excellency, in accordance with the tenour of your Lordship's instructions, that Her Majesty's Government would not be prepared to entertain any request involving a deviation from the new line of frontier assigned to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Mr. Gould to M. Ristich.

Belgrade, June 4, 1879.

M. le Président du Conseil,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the note your Excellency did me the honour to adress to me on the $\frac{16}{28}$th ultimo, on the subject of the new boundary between the Principality of Servia and the Ottoman Empire.

Your Excellency begins by calling the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the deplorable events which have occurred in the south-eastern border districts of the Principality during the past winter and spring, and in particular on the $\frac{9}{21}$th of April last, when the Servian territory was suddenly invaded by a considerable body of Albanians, who committed great depredations.

Your Excellency then proceeds to infer, from the above-cited facts, that Servia will unfortunately remain at all times exposed to similar inroads unless the line followed by the Servo-Turkish frontier is modified with the view to render it less open to attack than it has become since the withdrawal of the Servian troops from the valley of the Lab, and the country below Vranja, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

Your Excellency finally concludes by expressing the hope that, under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government will agree to a rectification of the boundary on the side of Vranja, and to the rest of the Servian frontier facing Turkey being modified to the extent required to make it more secure than it will otherwise be if the line laid down in the Treaty of Berlin is strictly adhered to.

I lost no time in communicating the substance of your Excellency's note to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but, to my regret, I can only confirm the opinion I verbally expressed at the time, that Her Majesty's Government would not be prepared to assent to any request which, by favouring the Principality, to the prejudice of the neighbouring States, would involve a deviation from the new line of frontier assigned to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin.

I take, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 204.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 137.)

Belgrade, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

THERE is at last a fair prospect of an early settlement of the long-pending dispute about the proper position of the old frontier at Veliki Izvor, the Servian Government having been compelled to sign an Agreement to the effect that the question is to be decided in accordance with the dispositions of the Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi, of the Hatti Sheriff of 1833, and of the Treaty of Berlin.

The two Commissioners selected by the Servian Government and the Russian Governor-General of Bulgaria, have, after numberless delays, finally proceeded to the spot, although some doubts seem to exist as to the strict legality of the appointment of the latter, the matter being one which properly concerns the new Bulgarian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 205.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 138.)

Belgrade, June 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the translation of a petition forwarded to me by telegraph from the inhabitants of the district of Breznik, praying Her Majesty the Queen not to permit them to be violently separated from Servia, and protesting

that they are not Bulgarians. This Petition being similar in purport to the one previously addressed to Her Majesty by the population of Trn, I have not deemed it necessary to take up your Lordship's valuable time by sending a telegraphic summary of its contents.

In the present instance, as in that of Trn, the population is, I believe, of mixed, or, more properly speaking, doubtful nationality, for when questioned whether they are Bulgarians or Servians, they seem not to know, and invariably reply they are Christians. Nevertheless, I am strongly inclined to think they are, to a very considerable extent, Servian in sympathy.

Their whole trade is with Servia, to which, at particular seasons of the year, they emigrate in large numbers in search of work.

In language, manners, and customs, there is little, if anything, to distinguish them from the inhabitants of the Principality, whose lot they envy on account of their being more lightly taxed and better administered than they can hope to be for a long time to come under Bulgarian rule.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Petition.

(Translation.)

To Her Royal Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India through her Minister Resident for Servia in Belgrade.

THE Servian population of the district of Breznitza, consisting of fifty-seven villages on territory of four hours long (20 kilom.) and five hours wide (25 kilom.) to-day gathered around the members of the International Commission for the Delimitation of the Frontier, beg most humbly your Majesty to graciously give the most just and most high order, to the English member of the International Commission, not to delimitate our frontier, as in the Treaty of Berlin defined, giving us over to the Bulgarians.

We are truly convinced that your Majesty could not have issued the order to the member of the International Commission to fix such boundary without having been deceived by our enemies, and the disturbers of the European peace, stating that here lived only Bulgarians, we being as much Bulgarians as are the Roumanians or Germans. Not a single Servian district can boast of being more Servian than we are, according to national customs and manners, as seen in our songs and language, in one word ethnographically and geographically than our country around Breznitza.

The Power which destroyed, annihilated, and subdued our Servian State five centuries ago, allowed also to the enemies of our name and country to impose upon us the name and nationality of the Bulgarians, calling us also Greeks as if we belonged to that nationality, although we were then, as to-day, true and pure old Servians.

Your Majesty, we were ever a pillar to the Servian State under Servian Rulers, under the glorious Nemanides, and remained during our long-lasting and weary five centuries slavery faithful to our holy Servian faith, our beloved Servian customs and manners, our beloved Servian language, and all the other characteristics of our Servian nationality.

We hope that we have not now deserved to be compelled to go into slavery to the Bulgarians and Bulgarian statesmen, and to be forced to abandon our faith and patriotism of the last 500 years while Servians in bondage, further considering that in the year 1877 our Servian brethren delivered us at the cost of their blood and sacrifices.

Your Majesty, by force the frontier can be drawn anywhere, but we will remain Servians now and for ever; consequently, we declare that we prefer to expatriate ourselves, and to abandon our lands, than to recognize the Bulgarians for our masters, and to renounce our patriotism to Servia.

We pray to God to instil into the heart of your Majesty the sentiment that shall save us from destruction, and on account of this latter we adjure your Majesty to order to the English member of the International Commission, that a just and natural frontier shall be drawn consistent with the rightful desire of the Breznitza population.

We are happy to have the honour to call ourselves your Majesty's most humble Representatives of the Servian Communities of the District of Breznitza.

(Signatures follow.)

No. 206.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 130.)

Belgrade, June 6, 1879.

My Lord,

ON receiving M. Ristich's note of the 30th ultimo, inclosed in my despatch No. of the , in which his Excellency complains of the insecurity of the new line of frontier assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to Servia in the direction of Albania, I ventured to apply, by telegraph, to Captain Anderson, R.E., Her Majesty's Servian Boundary Commissioner, to favour us with his opinion, from a military point of view, as to the grounds that existed for the alleged weakness of the Servian boundary on this side.

Captain Anderson has very kindly acceded to my request, and I have, accordingly, the satisfaction of submitting herewith to your Lordship an exceedingly able and interesting Memorandum on the defences of Vranja, which he has caused to be drawn up by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, of the Coldstream Guards, and which most effectually disposes of the question as regards the section of the frontier already delimitated by the Servian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 206.

Memorandum on the Defences of Vranja.

1. If the Servians only fear a raid of the Albanians towards Vranja, it may be said that the town is quite sufficiently protected, by the new frontier traced last year, from such a calamity, provided that the Government of the Principality do not omit the simple precautions which are necessary in every frontier town, where the neighbouring inhabitants are composed of brave but wild people.

It should be also remembered that the Albanian population is not so thickly distributed near Vranja as elsewhere in the Servian frontier; some of the inhabitants of the Turkish border villages are of that race, but they are mixed up with Servian communities, and these latter are especially to be found on the right bank (south-east) of the Morava.

2. Against a regular army furnished with artillery, the only part of the new frontier near Vranja which might be considered weak with reference to that town, is where the boundary following the crest of the Karpina Planina bends more to the east than is shown in the Austrian Staff Map.* If batteries were established upon those heights, Vranja could be bombarded.

This danger, however, does not exist at all, because, as there are no roads within the valley of the Trnovce River, it would be quite impossible for any force hostile to Servia to get guns upon those heights; nor would any General commit artillery into so tortuous and difficult a ground as the valley named.

It is not likely that roads would ever be constructed within the Trnovce Valley, because they would lead to nothing. One might, however, be made from Leskowatz down the Veternica River to Poljanica Planina (where the Karpina Planina quits the main range), and this communication might some day be continued down the Trnovce to the Piljan-Vranja road. I understand, indeed, that the Servian Government contemplate making a road as far as Poljanica Planina from Leskowatz, but such a work could only add to the defence of the places on the frontier near Vranja which have been indicated, while a road from Giljan to Poljanica could in no way weaken that defence.

This is apparent when it is considered that the Servians have other heights within

* See sketch inclosed, at point marked in red 217. This refers to Station No. 217. See Map of the Boundary traced last year, and adopted by the Servian Boundary Commission.

their own borders, from which they could command any force attempting to take possession of that short portion of the frontier from which Vranja could be seen by guns.

And, finally, it must be remembered that any heights which might overlook Vranja are neutral, being on the frontier; and it is very clear that the Servians, being nearer their centre of operations (Vranja) than the Turks, who must base themselves as far back as Kumanovo at least, would be able to seize at once the line of frontier.

3. Everywhere Vranja is well defended by the frontier (for the portion just considered is, on account of its position, of very minor importance). On the right bank of the Morava the heights are so disposed as effectually to bar the progress of an invading force coming from that direction, while across the Morava Valley—which is really the important point—Servia has good positions, advantageous enough to resist a very formidable attack.

There is a height* on the left bank of the Davidovatz stream in the valley, which, therefore, belongs to the Principality, and which covers Vranja effectually. The position could be traced on across the main road towards Rataj, and on it a powerful defence could be made. If the Servians were to fortify this line, even with field-works, it would require the development of a very strong force to take it.

4. Even now the position just indicated commands the junction of the roads from Giljan, and from Kumanovo to Vranja. Thus the very point of a possible Turkish concentration is under Servian fire. This of itself would place the Porte (in a war) at a serious disadvantage for any offensive operations, and would constitute a greater security to Vranja.

On the other hand, any increase of territory along this valley to Servia would give the Principality not only the good defensive line they now have, but also a thoroughly offensive position, from which they could with ease invade the Turkish Dominions, towards one of the most important strategical positions in this part of the Ottoman Empire—a point which cuts off the whole of Northern Albania, and which strikes the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway—viz., Uskub.

(Signed) JOHN ROSS OF BLADENSBURG,
Lieutenant, Coldstream Guards, Assistant Commissioner, Servian Boundary.

Pirot, June 2, 1879.

No. 207.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 141.)

Belgrade, June 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that, on being informed by Captain Anderson, Her Majesty's Servian Boundary Commissioner, that the Vali of Kossovo had complained of certain irregular proceedings on the part of the Servians in the vicinity of the Kussanik, as reported in Inclosure No. 3 to Captain Anderson's despatch No. 6 of the 3rd instant, I immediately brought the matter under the notice of the Servian Government, fearing that the proceedings complained of might, in the present excited state of the Albanian population, lead to further complications.

M. Ristich, however, explained that all the Servians had done was to cut stakes to be hereafter used in marking out the frontier in anticipation of the early arrival of the Boundary Commission, but that orders had been already issued to discontinue this necessary work, since it was alleged that it had caused alarm to the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

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* See sketch inclosed, marked in red 200, being the approximate height in feet above Vranja.

No. 208.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 142.)
Belgrade, June 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Sermed Bey, the Ottoman Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, has returned here after having presented his credentials to Prince Milan at Nisch, where he met with a most friendly reception.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 209.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 453.)
Therapia, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

AN official contradiction has been given by the Turkish Government to a statement published in the Russian newspaper, the "Golos," to the effect that Namyk Pasha had informed the Emperor of Russia, during his recent mission, that the Porte was prepared to surrender its rights to Eastern Roumelia for a pecuniary consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 210.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 455. Secret.)
Therapia, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 442, Secret, of the 28th ultimo, I mentioned that the Sultan had expressed to me some uneasiness with reference to a remark alleged to have been made by the Emperor of Russia to Namyk Pasha at Livadia, to the effect that at least His Majesty had preserved his Asiatic dominions. His Majesty inferred from it that the Emperor believed that his European territories were lost to him. I am informed that the Sultan having spoken on this subject to other persons, His Majesty's observation had been repeated to Prince Labanoff, who states that, so far from the Emperor having said anything of the kind, it was Namyk Pasha himself who said to His Imperial Majesty that the Sultan, having now virtually lost all his dominions in Europe, should apply himself to the consolidation of those that remained to him in Asia.

It is not improbable that what Prince Labanoff states may be the case, as Namyk Pasha is old and is given to loose talk of the kind.

I have, &c
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 211.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 456. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

THE passage in General Stolipine's speech to the officers of the Eastern Roumelian militia on his quitting Philippopolis, to which Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, I believe, has called your Lordship's attention, to the effect that "their country ('patrie') was not confined within the limits of a Bulgaria, but that it included all that is Slav, and that all that is Slav has but one and only Chief—the Czar, His Majesty the Emperor Alexander," has given great offence to the Porte. Carathéodory Pasha informs me that he has asked for explanations on the subject from Prince Labanoff, and that, if they are not satisfactory, he will probably address himself directly to the Russian Government.

Count Zichy has also spoken to me about General Stolipine's speech, which he considers injurious and offensive to his Government, and as having been expressly directed against Austria-Hungary as well as against Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 457.)
Therapia, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 742 of the 29th ultimo, inclosing, for my information, copy of a despatch to Sir Henry Elliot of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to state that Count Zichy must have entirely misunderstood me if he has reported to his Government that I had said to him that, "in the judgment of Her Majesty's Government, instructions for the International Commission should be agreed upon by the five Powers, and should then be proposed to Russia for her acceptance." Such an idea has never entered into my head, and it is consequently quite impossible that I should have so expressed myself to my Austrian colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 458.)
Therapia, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a Circular note from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, inclosing an appeal to the Great Powers from the Mussulmans of Varna and Prascudi against the outrages to which they are subjected by the Bulgarians. Carathéodory Pasha also calls attention to the persecution of Mussulmans in other parts of Bulgaria, and expresses a hope that Her Majesty's Government will intervene in their behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 213.

Carathéodory Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Circulaire.)
Constantinople, le 3 Juin, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

RÉDUITS au désespoir par les actes de cruauté auxquels ils se voient constamment en butte, les Musulmans de Varna et de Prascadi se sont décidés à faire appel aux Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin. En ayant l'honneur de transmettre, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, l'adresse qu'ils viennent de déposer à cet effet à la Sublime Porte, je remplis un devoir qui s'impose d'autant plus impérieusement qu'il s'agit là d'une question qui se rattache directement à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin.

Ainsi qu'il ressort des faits relatés dans cette pièce, la situation des Musulmans qui habitent la région de Varna est devenue intolérable; la violence de leurs persécuteurs ne connaît plus de bornes: violation de domiciles, vols, effraction, pillage, meurtres et tortures, tous les attentats les plus barbares et les plus criminels sont chaque jour commis sur la personne et les biens des malheureux Musulmans.

Les Musulmans de Sophia, de Kustendil, et de Radomir ne se trouvent guère dans une situation meilleure. Indépendamment des souffrances de toute sorte qu'ils ont eu et ont encore à endurer, ils se voient menacés jusque dans la jouissance de leurs droits de propriété.

S'agit-il d'une revendication, on ne se contente pas du titre légal sur lequel elle

s'appuie; on exige encore un certificat ou un acte de législation délivré par les Bulgares. Et lorsque cette formalité est remplie, la réclamation du propriétaire est bien souvent encore rejetée par une fin de non-recevoir absolue et non motivée.

C'est ainsi que l'autorité Bulgare actuellement en fonction dispose comme elle l'entend des biens appartenant aux Musulmans. D'un côté elle fait abattre leurs maisons ainsi que des mosquées et des boutiques; de l'autre elle donne à loyer à vil prix pour deux ans leurs propriétés et leurs fonds de terre. Des maisons et des terrains ont même été vendus arbitrairement et à des prix dérisoires.

En ayant l'honneur d'appeler sur ces faits déplorables l'attention de votre Excellence, je me crois en droit d'espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique voudra bien faire entendre sa voix en faveur des opprimés dans l'intérêt de l'humanité et par respect pour les principes solennellement consacrés par le Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 213.

Résumé of Petition from the Musulmans of Bulgaria.

(Traduction.)

A son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

A LA suite des derniers événements le pays que nous avons habité avec calme et prospérité pendant tant d'années a pris le nom de Bulgarie, d'après la décision du Congrès de Berlin. Le Traité a en même temps assuré l'avenir des Musulmans qui continueront à séjourner dans cette contrée. Malheureusement la population Musulmane endure toute espèce de violences, de tyrannies, de la part des Bulgares, et les vols et les assassinats dont elle est victime sont innombrables. Un Turc ne peut plus sortir pour vaquer à ses affaires, et toutes ces vexations ont tellement augmenté depuis le 1er Avril, qu'une pierre même ne pourrait les supporter sans crier.

Afin de faire connaître à votre Excellence les procédés des Bulgares auxquels nous sommes livrés, qui nous prirent de nos biens, de nos droits, de notre liberté et de notre vie, nous venons lui exposer les faits qui se sont produits dans l'espace de quinze jours, en implorant sa protection.

Quatre Bulgares sont entrés dans la maison de Hadji Hassan dans le village Mirafta, district d'Aïdos, et après lui avoir pris tous ses effets et son argent, ils lui ont fait subir toutes sortes de supplices qui ont causé sa mort. Sa famille aussi a été torturée. Ils ont ensuite pénétré dans une maison Turque du village Hotal, et ont enlevé £ T. 17, aux habitants, en leur faisant endurer toutes espèces de violences.

Trente-trois sont entrés de force chez Dikran Hussein, du village Djeuké, district d'Aïdos, et en son absence, ont blessé sa femme et celle de son fils; leur ont appliqué des fers rouges à la tête, au cou, et aux seins; ont menacé trois fois d'égorger leur petit enfant, et ont finalement enlevé 1,050 piastres qu'ils ont trouvées et tous leurs effets.

Trois Bulgares sont entrés dans la maison de Dikran Osman, au village Yéni-Mahallé, district d'Aïdos, et en son absence ont emmené une paire de buffles.

Une quarantaine de Bulgares se sont présentés au village Sora, district de Pravadi, ont mis le feu aux granges de Topal Hassan, ont tiré sur les habitants accourus, ont pénétré chez Ali Agha, l'ont battu et blessé, et ont emporté tout son argent et ses effets. Ils se sont ensuite rendus chez Chakir, l'ont mis à la torture pour avoir son argent, et ont tué Topal Hassan, qui était accouru aux cris poussés par la famille. Ils ont emporté tout l'argent et les effets.

Cinq Bulgares ont pénétré chez Hodja Békir, au village Djirmé, district de Pravadi; l'ont mis à la torture pour avoir son argent, et ont tué Ibrahim Oglou Emir Oullah, qui était accouru à son secours. Ils lui ont tout pris.

Cinq Bulgares sont allés chez Ismaïl au village Piredjé, district de Pravadi, ont battu et blessé lui et sa famille, et ont volé 1,200 piastres et tous leurs effets.

Vingt Bulgares armés sont entrés chez Mehmed Hodja, au village Kissik, district d'Aïdos, ont battu, torturé, blessé lui, son fils et ses deux femmes, et ont tiré sur Mehmed Oglou Omer qui est venu à leur secours. Ils ont tout pris au Hodja.

Vingt Bulgares ont pénétré chez Ali Agha au village de Coshi-Pépé, district de Pravadi, et lui ont lié les bras derrière le dos. Son frère Mehmed Effendi étant accouru à ses cris, ils l'ont tué. Ensuite faisant marcher Ali-Agha devant eux ils sont allés chez Hadji Oglou Ahmed, puis chez Chabann, et Cara Mehmed, leur ont également attaché les bras, et leur ont pris un cheval à chacun.

La population des villages situés aux environs de Varna souffre aussi toutes sortes de vexations et de pillages de la part des Bulgares. Trois voyageurs Musulmans ont été tué à la localité dite Dildjé.

Un jeune homme du district de Pravadi qui avait été couper du bois a été tué.

Ismaïl et Ibrahim du village Youndjilar, district de Bultchik, à leur retour du moulin, ont été attaqués, par des Bulgares qui leur ont bandé les yeux, lié les bras, et les ont précipités dans un puits profond.

Un nommé Halil, de Mangalia, à la suite d'une volée de coups de bâtons administrée par les Zaptiés Bulgares de Bazardjik, est mort à Varna.

En dehors des faits ci-dessus les Bulgares disent à tous et partout :—"Si vous restez ici nous vous enrôlerons parmi nos soldats, et vos femmes quitteront le 'féredjé' pour mettre la robe, et nous les ferons boire et rire avec nous." De plus, à mesure que les Russes se retirent, ils livrent les maisons et les champs qu'ils détenaient des Musulmans émigrés aux Bulgares, qui viennent des parages d'Andrinople s'installer ici, de sorte que les Musulmans qui rentrent chez eux sont dépouillés des propriétés qu'ils possèdent, comme il appert des titres en règle, et sont livrés à la misère.

En un mot, nous sommes exposés au pillage et à l'assassinat, de plus, une foule d'abus se commettant dans les élections, les medjliss et les Tribunaux sont entre les mains des Bulgares. Si un membre Musulman se trouve parmi eux, il est là pour la forme, et sa parole n'a aucun poids. Les droits des Musulmans sont frustrés. Le premier Bulgare venu formulant n'importe quelle réclamation injuste contre un Musulman a gain de cause, et un Musulman dont les droits sont évidents et la cause bien-fondée, est débouté.

Les Musulmans ne reçoivent aucune assistance ni protection du Gouverneur de Varna ou de ses employés.

Le Traité de Berlin stipule qu'à l'instar des autres nations les Musulmans seront respectés dans leur personne, leurs propriétés, et leur honneur, qu'ils jouiront de la liberté individuelle et de culte, et qu'ils seront mises d'accord pour faire exécuter au pied de la lettre tous les Articles du Traité; mais ici on n'exécute même pas une lettre de ce Traité. Si on ne prend des mesures pour arrêter ce cours des choses; si on n'envoie des Commissaires pour vérifier les faits, empêcher les Bulgares de nous tyranniser et modifier la conduite des employés du Gouvernement, toute la population Musulmane de la Bulgarie sera forcée d'émigrer pour ne pas être exterminée. Nous ne doutons pas que votre Excellence, dont les sentiments d'humanité et la bienfaisance sont connus, ne permettre pas un pareil résultat, et nous implorons sa prompte protection.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le 27 Avril, 1879.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 459. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

IN pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I addressed a note to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing him that Her Majesty's Government had appointed Mr. Michell to act as British member of the Commission during the absence of Sir Henry Drummond Wolff. Carathéodory Pasha spoke to me to-day on the subject, expressing much regret at the appointment, and a desire that it should be revoked, as he had hitherto refused to issue Prince Tzeretelew's exequatur as Consul-General in Eastern Roumelia, although urgently pressed to do so by Prince Labanoff, on the ground that he could not, as a member of the Commission, hold the Consular appointment at the same time. Now that Mr. Michell had been named British Commissioner, his Excellency went on to say, the Russian Ambassador would insist upon the issue of the exequatur. The Porte was most unwilling to have Prince Tzeretelew as Russian Consul-General at Philippopolis, as he was known to have been actively engaged in the Panslavist intrigues which had brought about the war, and had since shown himself a strong Bulgarian partizan, and very hostile to Turkey, and as his presence in Eastern Roumelia would be a constant source of danger to the tranquillity

of the province, and would encourage the Bulgarians to resistance to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. But, as Her Majesty's Government had now appointed Mr. Michell their Commissioner, he could no longer object to the Prince holding the two offices.

I observed to Carathéodory Pasha that, in my opinion, he had refused the issue of the exequatur to Prince Tzeretelew on wrong grounds. If the Porte objected to the appointment of the Prince as Consul-General in Eastern Roumelia on account of his antecedents, and if he was not an acceptable person to the Sultan, the proper course would be to submit the matter to the Russian Government, and to request that he might not be named to that post. Many precedents could be cited for this course, and I reminded his Excellency that the Emperor of Russia had refused an exequatur to Mr. Michell as British Consul-General at Tiflis. This would be the best way to meet the difficulty; otherwise, as soon as the Commission was dissolved, the same excuse could no longer be alleged against Prince Tzeretelew's nomination. Her Majesty's Government had the right to name as a member of the Commission any person that they might think proper, without consulting the Porte on the subject.

Carathéodory Pasha seemed to be convinced by my representations, and said that he would at once consult the Grand Vizier on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 215.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 460.) *Therapia, June 5, 1879.*

My Lord,

M. DE MONTHOLON, the French Chargé d'Affaires, has informed me that he has been instructed by his Government to call upon the Porte to name Commissioners to treat, at Constantinople, with Commissioners to be appointed by the Greek Government, for the rectification of the Greek frontier, as recommended by the Congress of Berlin. He wished to know whether I was prepared to support his representations in this matter, as he had understood from his Government that I should receive instructions to do so. I replied that I had not yet heard from your Lordship on the subject, and could not consequently take any official steps in the matter. M. de Montholon led me to believe that he should wait before addressing the Porte until the instructions in question had reached me.

The German Ambassador called upon me this morning to know whether I had been instructed to support the French demand, as he had been directed to do so by his Government. I told him that I had not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 216.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 463.) *Therapia, June 6, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lieutenant Chermside's telegram of the 1st June describing the failure of the Commission to afford justice and redress to the Christian inhabitants of Zeitoun, and to your Lordship's telegram No. 461 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a *note verbale* which I have addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, calling his serious attention to the state of affairs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 216.

Note Verbale.

Therapia, June 5, 1879.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has heard with very deep regret that the Commission recently named by the Porte to inquire into the deplorable events that have occurred in Zeitoun, which have been the subject of correspondence between Her Majesty's Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs, has returned to Aleppo, after visiting the district in question, not only without having effected any practical results, but that its presence has actually aggravated the situation and has confirmed the fears of the inhabitants that they cannot hope for protection and redress. The only measures apparently taken by the Commission has been to order the erection of a large barrack at Zeitoun with the object of a military occupation of the place. The amnesty which the inhabitants had been led to expect would be issued to those concerned in the late troubles have been withheld. These facts have produced a most unfavourable impression upon the Christians, and have increased the hostility of the Mussulman population against them. General alarm appears to prevail, and there is serious danger lest the Christian population, disappointed in their hopes of obtaining justice and relief, and fearing that they will be exposed to renewed persecution, may be driven into taking measures for their own defence which will furnish an excuse for severe measures of repression on the part of the Turkish authorities, and to fresh bloodshed and disorder.

After the assurances received by Her Majesty's Embassy, assurances transmitted to Her Majesty's Government, that an impartial inquiry should be made into the grievances of the inhabitants of Zeitoun, that they should be treated with justice and leniency, and that redress should be afforded to those who have suffered so cruelly, Her Majesty's Ambassador cannot but express his deep regret that he is compelled to report to his Government that the Commission has so completely failed to carry out the promises of the Porte, and that nothing whatever appears to have been done for the relief of the unfortunate Christian inhabitants of Zeitoun. Her Majesty's Ambassador ventures to call the earnest attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the grave consequences that may ensue from a state of things to which, he is convinced, the Porte, when made acquainted with the truth, will take measures to put an end.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 217.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 466.) *Therapia, June 6, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Philippopolis, Adrianople, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 109.) *Philippopolis, May 26, 1879.*

Sir,

GENERAL STOLIPINE left this morning by train for Slivno.

The road to the station was lined by companies of the provincial militia, without their arms, and there was a large concourse of people, mostly of the Bulgarian race, at the station, together with the Bulgarian Prelates and a great number of the Russian officers stationed in this town.

The members of the Municipality, headed by the Mayor, who read an address, were likewise present.

Aleko Pasha, escorted by Russian cavalry, came to the station to take leave of his predecessor, who availed himself of the occasion to recommend him in a speech to the

Bulgarians, whom, he alleged, Prince Alexander Vogorides already loved; and loud cheers were, in consequence, given for Aleko Pasha.

I arrived at the station after this occurrence, and only in time to hear General Stolipine address a deputation of young officers of the local militia in the following terms:—

"Serve with honour and glory, like your brethren at the Shipka. Do your duty, not only towards your own country, but also to the whole Slav world; and, lastly, always consider the Russian Czar as the Supreme head of the Slav world (Slaviunstro)."

The officers bowed their adherence to these sentiments, and immediately after the Dragoman of the Russian Consulate-General made a speech to the General in Bulgarian, thanking him for what he had done for the population, and acknowledging generally the great and noble virtues he had displayed.

General Stolipine replied by saying that he had been so long in the country, that he felt as if he belonged to it, and that he would never forget his connection with it.

As the train was on the point of starting, the ex-Governor-General once more put his head out of the carriage window and shouted:

"My last words are: 'Cheers for His Majesty the Emperor Alexander II, the Liberator of Bulgaria.'"

By these proceedings General Stolipine has once more proved that the Russian Government is served by men who, while sometimes outwardly conforming themselves to positive instructions, are, nevertheless, historically prone, on every convenient occasion, to deviate from those instructions, and to carry out their own personal policy or that of the party or faction to which they may happen at the time to belong.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 117.) *Philippopolis, May 30, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the ceremony of reading the Sultan's Firman ordering the execution of the Organic Statute, and the Firman appointing His Imperial Majesty's Vizier, Aleko Pasha, Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, took place at 10 o'clock this morning at the konak, in the presence of the Commissioners for the organization of this province, of the Greek, Roman Catholic, and Bulgarian Prelates and other clergy, of a large assemblage of notables, and of the local militia under the command of General Vitalis. Only two or three Turks were present, and I have indeed been informed, on good authority, that some respectable Turks, who had attempted to enter the courtyard of the konak, were driven back by the police.

The Consular Body attended in plain clothes at the special request of the Secretary-General, who, like Aleko Pasha, wore no uniform or decorations. The latter wore a kulpak and a Turkish frock-coat.

A company of Russian infantry was drawn up at the entrance to the courtyard of the konak, apparently in the anticipation of disorders which did not take place, and of which there was indeed but little probability, even in the event of the Governor-General having carried out the original programme of the ceremony, which included the hoisting of the Sultan's colours, as reported by Her Majesty's Commissioner to the Marquis of Salisbury. The two Firmans, of which a French translation is forwarded herewith, were read in Turkish and then in Bulgarian, after which the address of "Alexander Vogorides" (translation inclosed) was read in the Bulgarian language; the reading the Greek text, of which copies had been prepared, being entirely omitted, to the great dissatisfaction not only of the Greek Archbishop and Greek notables, but also to the disappointment of all other persons interested in the maintenance of a strict impartiality between contending races and creeds in this province, and anxious to see the provisions of the Organic Statute in respect to such impartiality implicitly put into execution. The Greek Archbishop consequently left without accompanying the other Prelates on a visit of congratulation to the new Governor-General.

The band of the local militia responded to the reading of the Firman and address by playing the Bulgarian air known as the "Maritza," the words of which terminate with the chorus, "March, march, Constantinople is ours."

A voice proceeding from a small knot of Bulgarian rabble in front of the konak shouted out, after the reading of the several documents above-mentioned, "Long life to Prince Alexander of Bulgaria."

This was responded to with that amount of acclamation which a small concourse of people could render.

The local militia, under the orders of General Vitalis, but to whom the words of command were given by the next senior officer, who is a Russian, then marched past in tolerable order, the militia band playing the only other national Bulgarian tune which they have as yet been able, to a certain extent, to master.

I may state that the two banners of the militia represented what are assumed to be the Bulgarian colours, with crosses superimposed.

And I am indeed compelled to add that, in my opinion, the entire proceedings were wanting in the dignity, solemnity, and appropriate political significance which the occasion demanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 119.) *Philippopolis, May 30, 1879.*

Sir,

HIS Excellency Aleko Pasha returned my official visit this afternoon, and entered into much conversation on the subject of his mission in Eastern Roumelia, and of the incidents that had occurred since his arrival at Philippopolis.

He said that his task was surrounded by difficulties, which he hoped to be able to surmount with the aid of the Consular Representatives, principally of Great Britain and Austria, and that your Excellency had specially recommended him to seek my advice on all occasions. At the same time, he gave me to understand that his principal object in seeking such advice would be to divest himself of the exclusive responsibility of such steps as he might be advised to take.

I replied that, while I should always be most anxious to take part in his Excellency's counsels, it would nevertheless be for him, as Governor-General, to adopt decisions, and to take the entire consequences of them. His responsibility would be shared by the Directors of Departments to be appointed under the Organic Statute, and who would in reality be his Ministers and official advisers. As to myself, I should always be responsible to my own Government for any advice that I might be called upon to offer to his Excellency, and he might feel assured that, in all matters of importance, my advice would be in consonance with the views of Her Majesty's Government, which was deeply interested in the establishment of peace and prosperity in this province.

Aleko Pasha having alluded to the incident of this morning, namely, his omission to hoist the Sultan's colours after having announced his intention of doing so, I expressed my regret that his Excellency had proclaimed such an intention without having made up his mind to carry it out at all hazards. I asked him whether he had sent for General Vitalis, and called upon him to state whether he would answer for the preservation of tranquillity in the event of the flag being hoisted.

His Excellency replied that he had not done so, but that the Exarch and others had warned him that a tumult would arise if he persisted in carrying out his original programme, which, he said, had been urged upon him at Constantinople. I expressed a belief that, with ordinary precautions, such as guarding the two entrances to the konak, a disturbance, even if attempted, could easily have been suppressed, and that the making of a concession on every occasion when a tumult was threatened could only lead to the entire effacement of his Excellency's authority as Governor-General. The fez business was one of those regrettable occasions, and many more would certainly present themselves if encouraged to do so.

Aleko Pasha said his great object was to establish his position with the masses, which were Bulgarian, and that, unless he succeeded, he would be forced to resign. I took the liberty of pointing out that threats of resignation on his Excellency's part would still further imperil his authority, and would still more inevitably bring about

a result that might be disastrous to the Porte, and injurious to the general interests of Europe.

I also endeavoured to impress him with the fact that the threats under which he had made such regrettable concessions emanated from a self-constituted body of quasi-patriots, sitting in this town as a National Committee, and receiving large subsidies from the Panslavist Committee at Moscow, and levying heavy contributions on their fellow-countrymen in this province.

The President at this moment was seeking an office of importance, to which he had been nominated by General Stolipine. It was my opinion that the Governor-General ought not to tolerate such occult interference with an authority which he derived from the Sultan on the strength of international engagements, and that he ought at once to take advantage of an article in the Organic Statute which prohibited the existence of societies pursuing an object or employing means that were illicit or dangerous to the State, particularly since the same Statute permitted the formation of all other societies, and afforded the widest scope for the discussion of the affairs of the province in an open and regular manner.

At his Excellency's request I pointed out the Article in question (§ 42), and obtained his assurance that he would at once direct his attention to a matter of such importance.

The conversation then turned on the appointments made by General Stolipine. I thought it my duty to put him on his guard against the persons who had so artfully been thrust on his notice, and whom, General Stolipine himself had told me, it would be dangerous to confirm without due probation and inquiry.

Aleko Pasha said that his hand had been forced in the matter, but that he would take care to confirm the appointments only "temporarily," as suggested by General Stolipine. He appeared to be most embarrassed on the subject of the Russian and other political agents who held commissions in the local militia, and I agreed with him in thinking that he should eliminate those officers gradually and judiciously, taking care, in the meantime, to avoid engaging them permanently.

I next drew the attention of the Governor-General to the existence of several pending cases, in which Turks had complained of violence and robbery on the part of armed Bulgarians in this province, and I also gave him the name of a Turkish schoolmaster who, together with some other Moslems, had been beaten and driven away by Bulgarian gendarmes, while endeavouring to make their way into the court-yards of the konak this morning, in order to hear the reading of the Sultan's Firman. I said to his Excellency that he must have observed the almost entire absence of Turks on this important occasion, and that the conduct of the police in the case which I had submitted to him would, no doubt, account for such absence.

Aleko Pasha assured me that he would cause immediate inquiry to be made into this matter, and thanked me for having brought it to his notice.

At the risk of being considered too severe and obtrusive a mentor, I spoke to his Excellency on the subject of his treatment of the Greek subjects of the Porte at the ceremony of this morning. I told him that the Greek Archbishop had rightly taken offence at his omission to read the Firman and his Address in Greek, particularly as the Organic Statute specially provided for the use of Greek as one of the three official languages to be used in this province; and I asked him whether he could not make some amends to the Greek population, by causing, for instance, the Firman and Address to be read with solemnity in the Greek church at an early opportunity.

His Excellency replied that, the sun being very hot, he had not been able to prolong the ceremony to the extent which the Greeks had expected, and he thought it was not too late to take the course which I had suggested.

In respect to this matter I may here state to your Excellency that, the Greek Archbishop having called upon me this afternoon to represent his grievance, I advised his Grace to wait upon the Governor-General and ask him, on behalf of his flock, to cause the Firman and Address to read at a special service in the Greek church.

During the course of his Excellency's visit, his desire to seek my advice, and my eagerness to afford it within proper limits, were frequently expressed; but his Excellency stipulated that, as our relations would be, to a great extent, confidential, their nature and purport should not afford matter for Blue Books, of which he had a dread.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 120.) *Philippopolis, May 30, 1879.*

Sir,

M. CHRISTOVICZ, the Secretary-General of this province, called upon me this afternoon, accompanied by Dr. Tchomakoff, one of the leading and most enlightened Bulgarian notables in this town.

A conversation ensued on the acts and policy of Aleko Pasha since his arrival at Philippopolis.

I thought it necessary to express to those gentlemen, in candid but conciliatory terms, my regret at the incidents which had occurred, and to urge upon them the absolute necessity of strengthening, in the common interest of the inhabitants of this province, the authority of the Sultan's Representative.

If he continued to be advised to make concessions to what was represented to him as the opinion of a powerful class, but which was only, in reality, the view of six men sitting in a Bulgarian schoolroom, the task of establishing order and good government was a hopeless one. Addressing Dr. Tchomakoff, I urged upon him the desirability of a voluntary dissolution of the "National Committee," in order to obviate the necessity of an application of the law under which such an organization was illicit, for the Great Powers of Europe were certainly determined to cause that Statute to be observed to the very letter.

Dr. Tchomakoff replied that he thought a dissolution of the Committee would take place, and M. Christovicz supported me in urging the desirability of such a course. The latter frequently asked me to advise him, and a long conversation, in which I held to a great extent the language reported in my preceding despatch of this date, ended by mutual expressions of goodwill and of a desire to serve a common cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 121.) *Philippopolis, May 30, 1879.*

Sir,

THE inclosed extract from the "Maritza" of this day gives an account of the departure of General Stolipine for Slivno.

It confirms the fact which had previously been reported to me by persons present, namely, that before my arrival at this station, the General had called for cheers for "Southern Bulgaria."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 124. Confidential.) *Philippopolis, May 31, 1879.*

Sir,

I BEG to forward to your Excellency herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Calvert, relative to the disappearance of a considerable sum from the funds of the National Committee, and to other matters connected with that institution.

It will not surprise me to learn, at no distant date, that most, or the whole, of those funds have been misappropriated. Indeed it strikes me that the continuance of the existing agitation is due, in a great measure, to the reluctance of the gentlemen composing the so-called National Committee to part with the large sums which they have contrived to get into their possession by means which I have reported to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 217.

Memorandum.

I LEARN that a deficiency of over £ T. 7,000 was yesterday discovered in the funds of the Eagle Society, and that a very stormy meeting of the National Committee of that Society, at which the Treasurers, MM. Gueshoff and Hadji Kultchoff, were severely taken to task, was held in consequence.

I have also been informed that, from several parts of the province, the Bulgarian peasantry lately demanded restitution of the money which they had contributed to the funds of the Eagle Society, basing their demand on the presumption that no insurrection against the Porte will now take place. The National Committee, however, refused to return the money, at least for the present, alleging that the liberties of the province were not ensured; and I learn that they have now again sent forth their agents to work upon the fears of the peasantry and to urge them to continue drilling assiduously.

In this town, the drilling of the "members of the Gymnastic Society" is kept up actively.

Philippopolis, May 31, 1879. (Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 126.) *Philippopolis, June* 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation, made by Mr. Calvert, of the protest addressed by the heads of the Greek community of Philippopolis to Aleko Pasha, on the occasion of his omission to read the Sultan's Firman in the Greek language.

The Greek Archbishop has assured me that, in pursuance of my advice, he had persuaded the signatories to tone down the original draft of the protest, which was considerably stronger than the text herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—I beg to inclose, likewise, an article which appeared in yesterday's "Philippopolis," relating, in strong language, to the same subject.

T. M.

Inclosure 9 in No. 217.

Protest addressed by Greek Notables of Philippopolis to Aleko Pasha.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

IN pursuance of the notice which was issued by the police, announcing that the reading of the Imperial Firman, appointing you Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, was to take place, the Greek inhabitants hastened to be present in the courtyard of the Government-house, in order to hear that Imperial Firman.

Contrary to every expectation, they observed with sorrow that the 22nd Article of the Organic Law of the country, according to which every publication concerning the whole province should be made in the three languages, Turkish, Bulgarian, and Greek, was flagrantly violated by the reading of the Firmans and the Address only in the Turkish and Bulgarian languages, and not in Greek. We protest, therefore, most energetically against the violation of the above-mentioned Article; and, demanding the entire fulfilment thereof, we subscribe ourselves, yours, &c.,

(Follow the signatures.)

Philippopolis, May $\frac{18}{30}$, 1879.

Inclosure 10 in No. 217.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 129.) *Philippopolis, June* 1, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, on the day before the arrival of Aleko Pasha, sixty-three of the students of the military school established by Prince Dondoukoff at Sofia arrived here from that town to receive commissions in the local militia.

These young Bulgarians are all natives of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 11 in No. 217.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 28, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that orders have been received from the Porte to prepare for the dispatch from this to Dédéagatch of the Turkish refugees from Bulgaria and the Dobrudscha. Steamers will be sent to receive these people and convey them to Varna. They number 4,352 and 176 souls respectively.

It is to be hoped that timely arrangements will be made, likewise, for the repatriation of the refugees from Eastern Roumelia, of whom there are no less than 26,613, provided measures can at the same time be devised by the International Commission for ensuring to them the good treatment and security of life and property which have been so signally wanting under the Russian régime.

The refugees state that all the lands taken from them have been put under cultivation by the Bulgarians. It will be remembered how shamelessly the ostensible order issued last summer by the Russians, assigning to the Turkish owners half the produce of their own fields, was evaded by the Bulgars; and it is to be hoped that a suitable share of this year's harvest will, at all events, be ensured to the unfortunate proprietors. It can hardly be expected, however, that any arrangement to that end will be satisfactorily carried out unless the Turks themselves assist in the gathering in of the crops; and the barley harvest begins about the 25th June.

I took occasion to call this important point to the notice of Sir H. Drummond Wolff, when here two days ago, on his way back to Philippopolis.

On the receipt of the above-mentioned order, a number of refugees from various parts of Eastern Roumelia called on me to inquire whether they, too, might not soon expect a similar summons. They look forward gleefully to the prospect of returning to their homes and of living in peace and safety under the protecting arm of the European Powers. They remarked, "The land is so rich that, under these conditions, in a few years, please God, we shall again be prosperous and happy."

Réouf Pasha informs me that about 500 of the refugees from Bulgaria (out of 4,350) have expressed their wish to be allowed to return overland, their homes being situated in the western parts of the Principality, and, therefore, more easy of access from this side.

The refugees take it for granted that, on the withdrawal of the Russians, the other European Powers will see to their being properly treated by the Bulgarians. None of them, consequently, so far as I can learn, object to return to their homes either in Bulgaria or Eastern Roumelia; and I have no hesitation in saying that the information to a contrary effect lately given by the Constantinople correspondent of the "Times" must have been derived from persons who desired the state of things which they alleged to exist, that is, from partizans of the policy of expulsion who have not the courage of their opinions.

As regards the historical precedents cited by the correspondent in support of that allegation, I would observe that, although the Turkish pride of former days doubtless had much to do with the Mussulman exodus from the emancipated provinces, it should not be forgotten that Eastern Christian intolerance of alien creeds and races equally contributed to it. If my memory serves me rightly, in one of the Treaties regarding the Danubian provinces it was stipulated that no Mussulman should be permitted to reside in those countries; and your Excellency, in a well-known speech in Parliament, has related the circumstances attending the withdrawal of the Turks from Servia. As

to the present emigration movement from Bosnia and the Herzegovina, when the most that the "Times" correspondent can show is that, after eight months of Austrian occupation, 600 families only, or say 3,000 souls, out of 493,000 of the most fanatical Mussulmans in Turkey, are found indisposed to submit to Christian supremacy, one is entitled to say that the exception proves the rule.

It may safely be accepted as a fact that, in the matter of foreign rule, as in many others, Turkish ideas have of late years undergone a great change. My own experience agrees with that of an American missionary, who has stated that the feeling which prevails on the subject in Asia Minor at the present day is expressed by the saying, "He may rule who will rule the best." (I quote from a letter by the Rev. C. Tracey, of Marsovan, published in the "Missionary Herald" of March last.)

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 12 in No. 217.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 30, 1879.

Sir,

AS there has been considerable laxity on the part of those to whom the Vali intrusted the task of numbering the Turkish refugees here, and as the native Committee of Relief has been uncommunicative regarding its labours, I am only now able to furnish the subjoined particulars on those subjects.

The following is, I believe, a correct classified statement of the numbers of refugees now at Adrianople:—

			Souls.
From—			
Roumania			176
Bulgaria			4,352
Eastern Roumelia			26,613
The Vilayet of Adrianople—			
Original number	4,408		
Repatriated	2,241		
		2,167	
Mussulman gipsies from various parts of the country (about)			8,000
Total			41,308

Out of the above there are 25,517 Turks who receive rations. These consist of half an oke of bread per head daily. A distribution of biscuits is made from time to time to an uncertain proportion of the gipsies. All these rations are of inferior quality. The first category is of rye bread, which, considering that the contract price is but 35 paras per oke, was at first fairly good, but it has been deteriorating of late. Some native Protestant bakers have offered, through the Rev. Mr. Rosenberg, to supply a better quality of biscuit rations at the same price, and the Vali has, I believe, recommended their offer to the Committee.

Of the 4,408 refugees from the northern districts of this vilayet, 2,241 have, as above stated, been reinstalled in their homes. They were supplied with rations of flour for one month, or, according to another account, for two months; also with agricultural implements and Indian corn for seed. It has not been thought advisable to send back for the present the remaining 2,167 refugees, they being from places near the border, where they would have been exposed to the risk of molestation.

The above numbers are being daily increased through the arrival of parties of refugees who had fled to the Rhodope Mountains. These all come under the category of those receiving rations.

As to measures of relief other than that of rations, funds have been raised for the purpose from the following sources:—

A theatrical performance and a lottery, organized here under the patronage of Réouf Pasha, have produced together about 530 Turkish liras. A smaller lottery, set on foot by the railway employés, gave £ T. 8. The Rev. Mr. Rosenberg obtained from the Earl of Donoughmore 50*l.* out of the Eastern Roumelian Fund; and Colonel Blunt and Mr. Black, manager of the Ottoman Bank here, 150*l.* from Mr. Consul Wrench and Mr. H. Hanson, out of the Compassionate Fund.

I am unable to give any reliable information regarding the disposal of the first-mentioned sum (£ T. 530), which is under the control of the Commission charged with the distribution of rations. The Mufti of Adrianople is President of that Commission, and its members comprise native Mussulmans only. Colonel Blunt and Mr. Black were invited to attend the first few sittings, but the co-operation of those gentlemen has been nominal only, nor have they been consulted as to the disposal of the sum in question.

The Commission promises a faithful account of its stewardship, and as some of the members are persons of known integrity, it is to be hoped that it will be so. In the meanwhile, however, the measures taken by them, so far as they have transpired, appear to be open to criticism. It was understood at first that the whole amount would be expended in the purchase of agricultural implements and seed for the raising of Indian corn. As there was ample time for the purpose (the sowing season for Indian corn being only just now over), whilst that kind of culture is performed by hand, a better and more profitable mode of investment could not have been devised; yet it was only utilized so far as regards the above-mentioned repatriated refugees of this vilayet. The bulk of the sum will, it is understood, be expended in the purchase of bullocks for the most destitute families; but as there are only sufficient funds for the purchase of about forty pairs, the inexpediency of that course, when the numbers needing relief are considered, is self-evident.

Part of the sums obtained from the Eastern Roumelian Fund and the railway employés (50*l.* and £ T. 8) were devoted to the above-mentioned useful purpose (the purchase of agricultural implements and seed-corn); the remainder has been expended by Mr. Rosenberg in the relief of destitute widows and orphans.

The 150*l.* from the Compassionate Fund is being employed in the shape of wages paid to refugees for their labour in repairing the streets of the town. A supply of clothing has just been received from the same source.

Although all the refugees are, according to the European standard, more or less destitute, I am happy to state that their condition is, both morally and physically, far better than might have been expected. Some sickness and mortality prevailed at first, but there is none now to any abnormal extent. Rounds of inspection are daily made, the refugees inform me, by medical men, who send cases into hospital whenever necessary. Large as is the number of these strangers, Adrianople has exceptional resources for their accommodation in its numerous empty silk factories, spacious buildings which have been closed for several years past owing to the stagnation of that branch of industry. Many refugees are also quartered in the large mosques, most of which have been temporarily devoted to that charitable purpose. As reports were current at one time of cases of overcrowding and filth, I was at the pains of verifying, by personal inspection, such specific instances as I could hear of, and satisfied myself that they were unfounded. There is, it is true, a general, but unavoidable, want of privacy, but no lack of space or of a fair degree of cleanliness.

As was the case during the Russian occupation, though necessarily to a more limited extent than then, many of the refugees manage to earn some small means of subsistence; and there is no mendicancy to speak of. As a general rule, they look healthy and strong. The moral effect of their release from the tyrannous yoke which had bowed them down for so many months past is visible in their cheery and hopeful air. This disposition is seconded by the present fine season; and even those who have no other food than the poor rations issued by the authorities, whilst looking forward to better times, take it thankfully, and seem to thrive upon it.

There is, of course, for all that, ample scope for the exercise of charity, especially among the numerous widows and orphans; and it is to be hoped that, when the moderate donations already received from English sources are expended, further similar contributions will be forthcoming until such time as these unfortunate victims of a barbarous régime may be enabled to return to their homes in safety, in accordance with the dictates of humanity and the first principles of civilization. All other measures of relief are, indeed, but palliatives. The feeding, even most inadequately, of so large a number of mouths meanwhile constitutes a very heavy drain on the resources of an exhausted Government chest. It is on every account to be hoped, therefore, that the true remedy will speedily be sought, and applied by those with whom it lies to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 218.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 343. Confidential.)
Vienna, June 4, 1879.

My Lord,

EDHEM PASHA spoke to me again yesterday about the policy of the Austrian Government towards Turkey, when I repeated that it would be found friendly if the Porte would allow it to be so.

He alluded to the designs upon Salonica attributed to the Austrian Government, and asked me very earnestly what I thought about them. I said I was sure that they did not exist, and that I regretted to see how ready the Porte had been to give credence to the reports so industriously spread by those who knew that a good understanding with Austria would tend greatly to strengthen Turkey, and who therefore wished to prevent it.

He asked whether I would authorize him to inform the Sultan—he did not say his Government—that such was my opinion, and I replied that he was quite at liberty to do so. He might, if he pleased, further inform His Majesty that my opinion was based not so much upon the disclaimers of the Austrian Government, to which he might perhaps attach little value, as upon a consideration of their own interests, and of the consequences that would result from the adoption of the policy attributed to them. I believed Austria to be only dangerous to Turkey while acting in concert with Russia, which had been ready during the war to offer very liberal terms for her co-operation; but were she now to try to extend her territories to Salonica, she must be prepared for a rupture with her powerful neighbour, as well as with Italy, and probably for a demand from Germany for some cession on the north as an equivalent for what she was acquiring on the south. A policy of further annexation would hardly be tolerated by Hungary, and in Austria proper would be the very reverse of popular from the manifest dangers attending it; and, for these and other reasons, Edhem Pasha might safely assure his Government that there was no danger of its adoption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 219.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 345. Confidential.)
Vienna, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I ASKED Count Andrassy what he thought of General Stolipine's Order of the Day of the 23rd May, in which the date for the arrival at Bourgas of various regiments is fixed for the 26th, 27th, and 28th July.

His Excellency, who was not acquainted with these orders till I communicated to him the copy inclosed in Mr. Consul-General Michell's despatch to Sir A. H. Layard, of the 25th ultimo, said that the proceeding was of a piece with the whole conduct of the Russians, whose acts had been uniformly in contradiction to their professions. The Czar and his Government had been declaring that the evacuation should be carried out with the least possible delay, and that it would be concluded by the end of the present month; and it now turned out that the Generals were making arrangements by which it would be protracted at least to the beginning of August.

General Stolipine's farewell speech at Philippopolis, to which your Lordship's attention had no doubt been directed, was, Count Andrassy said, a declaration of the purest Panslavism, and for his own part he rejoiced that the Russians should, in their last acts, show themselves in their true colours, so as to undeceive those who might still be inclined to put faith in their professions; and he intimated that the Emperor, who had long endeavoured to persuade himself of the sincerity of the assurances of the Czar and his Government, had now lost all confidence in them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 220.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(No. 347.)
Vienna, June 5, 1879.

My Lord,

A FEW days ago a Vienna newspaper of large circulation announced the military arrangements that had been made for commencing the immediate occupation of the Novi-Bazar district under the recently-concluded Convention with the Porte.

Count Andrassy assures me that there is not a word of truth in the statement, and that not only no arrangements have been made for entering that district, but that no decision has yet been taken as to whether the troops are at present to advance or not. He is himself, he says, in no hurry about it, his principal anxiety being to keep the expenses consequent on the occupation as low as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 221.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 13.)

(Confidential.)
Belgrave Square, June 11, 1879.

Dear Lord Salisbury,

IN order to comply with the wish you expressed, I send you the substance of the verbal communication I made to-day.

Count Andrassy, in answer to a Report of mine, stating that England is inclined not to countenance the cession of Janina, looks upon it as hazardous to lay down such a principle beforehand. In his opinion Janina was included in the frontier traced by the Congress. It seems quite possible to him that the Greeks would, for the moment, be satisfied with that which will be granted to them; but they would, under protest, reserve their claims on Janina as founded upon a European decision. The aim of the Congress—which has been to satisfy the Greeks to a certain extent, and thus to separate them from the Oriental Slavs—would, in spite of all sacrifices, not have been attained. According to our opinion, we should not confine ourselves to a cession which, though a costly one, would be considered by the Greeks as a mere payment on account. It seems to Count Andrassy more opportune and more in the interest of the Porte to give away Janina, and in exchange to obtain a possible guarantee for a durable peace on that side. This guarantee would consist in Greece being obliged, after such a solution, to declare herself satisfied, and in her being prevented from bringing forward further claims for some time.

I am desired to inform you, confidentially, of our opinion, and to add that we should not give a formal expression to our opinion before having tried to establish an agreement with England in this question. We think it, for general reasons, as well as with regard to our position at Constantinople, of great importance to find ourselves in this question in accordance with the British Cabinet.

I would be obliged for an answer at your earliest convenience on this subject, as Count Andrassy expects one from me.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

No. 222.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 13, 1879, 4·45 P.M.

YOURS No. 476. The unpaid Vice-Consuls at Mersina and Alexandretta should not be allowed to interfere with Wilson's proposals. Their Vice-Consulates might be confined to the towns. Make what arrangement you think best about them, but obtain the Berat for Cooper for the Vilayet of Adana.

No. 223.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 14.*)

(No. 15. Political.) *Aleppo, May 28, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch and its inclosures which I have addressed to Sir Henry Layard with reference to the interception of my letters by Kiamil Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 223.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, May 28, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram sent to me by Lieutenant Chermside for transmission to your Excellency, and a despatch sent under flying seal to me dated Marash, the 18th May, and addressed to your Excellency.

With reference to that part of the despatch concerning myself, I have the honour to most respectfully repeat the request contained in my despatch of the 24th March, that Her Majesty's Embassy should call for the production of the letters addressed to me stolen by Kiamil Pasha, and that your Excellency should have them translated and examined by a dragoman of the Embassy.

Nouvian Effendi, one of the Imperial Commissioners, informed me that he himself had examined Kiamil Pasha's translations of several stolen letters addressed to the Armenian Patriarch, and that he had found the translations to be false and malicious. Kiamil Pasha's unscrupulous character and conduct are, I regret to say, too well known to require further comment from me; and when the real character of the letters addressed to me and stolen by him is established, it cannot fail to redound to the discredit of this untrustworthy functionary of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 223.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

THE situation at Zeitoun is this; banditti, who, if captured by troops last year, would have richly deserved punishment, have since behaved so well, and their interest become identical with those of generality of population, that severe measures against them now would cause great discontent.

Their capture would be difficult; their pardon is merely a question of expediency. If pardon, however, be granted, I believe the principal crimes punished of those found guilty amongst prisoners would then seem unjust. No doubt commencement of lawlessness was much owing to misconduct of Government functionaries.

Governor of Marash *en route* here by order of Porte. His acts shall be inquired into here. This could be done perfectly at Aleppo; but his presence is most undesirable here, and will probably be misunderstood, and influence Court of Inquiry and prisoners, and affect his possible accusation, and give opportunity for intrigue.

Twenty prisoners recommended for release; same for twenty more; probably rest shall be tried the 10th May.

Inclosure 3 in No. 223.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Marash, May 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's telegram of the 15th May, received on the 16th.

I have decided to accompany the Commission to Zeitoun, and leave to-morrow for that place. The Commissioners intend to make but a very short stay there, to make their personal inquiries.

A "Medjliss," or Committee, to inquire into the subject of the taxation, will be left there, under the presidence or superintendence of the new Governor.

I am not aware if, in my telegrams, there was any ambiguity as to the amnesty asked for; it was not for the prisoners who were being examined in accordance with the course already approved of by the Porte, but for the uncaptured brigands, whose claims to clemency have been already mentioned, and whose capture is scarcely likely to be effected without bloodshed, and the punishment of whom, owing to the unfortunate effect of the line of action pursued towards Zeitoun by the Representatives of the Government, would produce a distressing effect on the inhabitants. If the Government really maintains the idea of adopting a conciliatory policy towards these mountaineers, who, there can be no doubt, have been driven to many of their follies and misdeeds by the conduct of Government agents, the course it is adopting is much to be regretted, as its present course has neglected and passed by the opportunity of gracious action, and of reassurance and conciliation of the suffering Christian population; and even should it eventually adopt the policy of complete amnesty and a real redress of grievances, the effect of such action, and the confidence engendered, will not be what they might have been. The Porte has ordered Weissi Pasha, the suspended Governor, to proceed here, but not to resume his functions as Governor, to which, however, I fear, the population will inevitably consider it but a preliminary step. Although nominally to be present at the inquiry into his own acts, the inexpediency of such a step is evident. After suspension, he would naturally, after an inquest on the spot, which would show what witnesses it was necessary to summon and documents to forward, be arraigned before his superiors at Aleppo. His return here will give him (himself a fanatic) an opportunity of intriguing with the fanatic Moslems here; it will strengthen the hands of the latter, and possibly influence very greatly the Court examining the Zeitoun cases, and make all classes, Christian or Moslem, afraid to speak out, either as to this matter or the Pasha's own alleged illegal acts. It is also, in the face of the decision of the Commission to leave him, a serious rebuff for them, however plausible the arguments in his favour may be.

The Commission have received from Constantinople what I believe purports to be a copy of an intercepted letter from the Zeitoun brigands to the Consul at Aleppo. They are, I believe, to examine and investigate a so-called intrigue. Considering that the late Vali was perfectly aware of the Consul's action in the matter, and that that of the Consul's delegate, Mr. Mardin, was undertaken at the Vali's request, that the only grounds on which any intercession was made for the brigands were perfectly well known, it does not seem a very dignified action on the part of the Government, especially as the letter, which I believe contains merely assurances of intentions to remain quiet in accordance with advice, was a stolen one. There are Turkish functionaries here who are not above promulgating the ridiculous idea that the representative of such a Power as England is intriguing with a handful of miserable and destitute mountaineers for political and aggressive purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 224.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 14.*)

(No. 88. Political.) *Scutari, June 3, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with orders received by Hussein Pasha from the Porte, four battalions of Redifs belonging to the 5th Army Corps (Syrian) have been dispatched this week by sea for Volo.

As these battalions belong to the first ban and were embodied three years ago, I believe they do not exceed an average of 250 men each.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 225.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 114.) *Belgrade, June 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 130 and 136 of the 2nd and 5th instant respectively, relative to the request of the Servian Government to the Signatory Powers for a rectification of the new Servo-Turkish boundary, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a further communication M. Ristich has addressed to me on the same subject.

His Excellency points out anew that Servia has no wish for any increase of territory; but that in view of the incessant incursions to which her border districts are exposed on the part of the Albanians, she merely expresses the hope that the Servian Boundary Commissioners may at least be instructed to trace the remaining sections of that frontier in such a manner as—without departing from the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin—to make it as secure from attack as the configuration of the country will permit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 225.

M. Ristich to Mr. Gould.

Belgrade, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Mai* 1879.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 4 Juin courant (x. s.) et dans laquelle je trouve confirmée l'opinion émise verbalement par elle au sujet de la question traitée dans ma note du $\frac{15}{27}$ Mai.

Si la réponse que votre Excellence veut bien me communiquer est celle de son Gouvernement, ce qui ne m'a pas semblé parfaitement clair dans votre note, je dois en conclure que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine a pris sa décision d'après les informations que votre Excellence lui aura transmises par le télégraphe, et j'y vois une raison de revenir sur ma note précitée.

Dans la crainte qu'on ne donnât à notre demande une interprétation qui fût en désaccord avec les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, j'ai déclaré qu'il était loin de la pensée du Gouvernement Princier de réclamer un nouvel accroissement de territoire. En effet, les considérations que j'ai cru devoir soumettre à l'appréciation du Cabinet de Sa Majesté Britannique ne sont destinées qu'à relever ce qui suit:

1. La nécessité de modifier le travail de la Commission Internationale du côté de Vranja, ce qui ne vous semble point entraîner une dérogation au Traité de Berlin. Les Protocoles de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie prouvent que, justement lors du tracée de la ligne du côté de Vranja, une notable divergence d'opinions s'est fait jour au sein de la Commission. Le Commissaire Princier a même été obligé de formuler des réserves contre la délimitation adoptée. Ces divergences prouvent donc que le Traité de Berlin se prête à une interprétation plus favorable à la Serbie que celle qui a prévalu à cause surtout de l'opposition des Commissaires Britannique et Ottoman.

2. A la suite des invasions Albanaises nous avons demandé que la partie non encore délimitée de la frontière fût mise dans de meilleures conditions de défense et que sa configuration offrît à la Principauté une protection efficace. Nous nous sommes abstenus d'indiquer les points que la Commission devrait avoir particulièrement en vue, et avons exprimé notre confiance dans la justice et l'équité des Cabinets Européens.

Comme il s'agit d'une recommendation à faire à la Commission Internationale, en lui laissant l'appréciation des points qu'elle jugerait nécessaires à la défense de notre frontière, toute supposition concluant à des velléités agressives de notre part ou à un désir d'aggrandissement "aux dépens de nos voisins," se trouve écartée.

Si nous sommes bien informés en ce qui concerne l'exécution du Traité de

Berlin, la prise en considération d'un désir pareil à celui que nous exprimons n'est pas sans précédent.

Je serais donc très-obligé à votre Excellence de bien vouloir soumettre ces éclaircissements à l'appréciation du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, car quelle que soit la décision qu'il lui plaira de prendre, nous avons à cœur de lui faire savoir que l'objet de notre demande formulée dans ma note du $\frac{15}{27}$ courant n'est ni un accroissement de territoire ni une dérogation au Traité de Berlin. Notre démarche a été dictée simplement par la nécessité de nous entourer de frontières propres à la défense, ce qui d'une part ne nous a pas semblé incompatible avec les décisions du Traité, et d'autre part est indispensable à notre sûreté, vu l'expérience aussi bien ancienne que récente que nous avons acquise au voisinage des Albanais et des Teberkesses, dont les méfaits n'ont pas peu contribué à provoquer la dernière crise Orientale.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTICH.

No. 226.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 11. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Corfu, June 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a Report received by yesterday's mail from St. Maura relative to the concentration of Greek troops at Lepenus, one of the most unhealthy localities in Acarnania and within eight hours' march of the Turkish frontier. I also venture to inclose copy of a private communication from Mr. Onofrio, which appears to have an important bearing on the same subject.

2. Shortly after the receipt of the communications just referred to I had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Alexander Macdonald, the "Times" reporter for Epirus, who had arrived direct from Janina the previous day.

3. Mr. Macdonald represents the state of the country as indescribable—overrun by brigands up to the immediate vicinity of Janina. So completely is the country at the mercy of those lawless ruffians, that, although it was his intention to have proceeded direct from Janina to Prevesa, he did not venture, but travelled by what was regarded as the safer route, viâ Paramithia and Sajades, whence he crossed over by boat to Corfu.

4. From all that he had learnt he was led to conclude that any attack on Epirus from the side of Greece just now would infallibly lead to a general massacre of the Christians, who are wholly unprovided with arms, while the Turks of all classes are armed to the teeth.

5. Mr. Macdonald, I may add, told me in confidence what he had not ventured to state in his official Report, that, at all the Christian villages he had passed through on his way to the coast he had learnt that large numbers of the able-bodied young men had left clandestinely, or were leaving daily, to enlist in the Greek force assembling on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 226.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, June 8, 1879.*

REFERRING to my despatch of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, pursuant to orders from the Minister of War of the 5th instant, two battalions of infantry have started early this morning for Lepenus, and two batteries of artillery will start for the same destination on Tuesday morning. Only one company of engineers and another of infantry are left to garrison Santa Maura.

Colonel Saponzakis, the Commander of the Western Greece Division, will take his departure for Lepenus to-morrow.

Public opinion at this place regards the concentration of troops at Lepenus as a measure intended to strengthen the hands of Greece at the impending negotiations in

Constantinople respecting the Boundary question, it being also asserted in well-informed circles that this attitude of the Hellenic Government has been suggested by a "patronizing Power." At any rate, reports from the other side of the border bear that the concentration of troops at Lepenus, whatever the object of the Hellenic Government may be, has produced a great deal of suspicion and irritation among Turks and Albanians, who are both preparing for any emergency. Reinforcements are expected from Constantinople, and the authorities at Janina are recruiting Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 226.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Scheight.

(Confidential.)
Santa Maura, June 8, 1879.

Sir,

THE accompanying despatch gives a faithful account of the state of affairs in these parts. The prospects of peace being maintained in these parts are, indeed, very gloomy, and it seems that Greece is bent on some desperate attempt to invade Epirus, should the issue of the impending negotiations be not satisfactory to her aspirations. Well-informed people say that she is being stirred up by the Government of the French Republic. The formation of the camp of Lepenus, despite the strong sanitary objections militating against that locality, objections which have been urgently laid before the Minister of War both by Colonel Saponzakis himself and by competent medical officers in the army, leaves no doubt that its object is political.

Colonel Grivas has sacrificed his popularity in the army to this bold step. This is no doubt another proof of the political importance the Government attaches to the concentration of troops in the proximity of the frontier. The discontent at the selection of Lepenus is visible among the troops.

Brigandage is rife in the district of Arta and Janina, and the state of public safety leaves much to desire. I am at a loss to understand why the Turks, who can dispose of a large force in those districts, should not set to work in earnest to put a stop to this state of things. It would be a good stroke of policy, but it seems that their inactivity in this respect is not unintentional.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 227.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 14.)

Le 5 Juin, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LES Musulmans de Varna et de Prascadi viennent de signer une adresse aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, exposant les actes de cruauté dont ils sont journellement victimes de la part des Bulgares.

J'ai communiqué cette pièce à MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople par une note où se trouvent exposés aussi les griefs des habitants Musulmans de Sophia, de Kustendil, et de Radomir.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie de ces pièces, ainsi que la note séparée que j'ai adressée sur le même sujet à l'Ambassade de Russie.

Les faits signalés par les plaignants ont une gravité qui ne saurait échapper à l'attention des Cabinets. Je vous prie d'en entretenir le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité et d'insister sur la nécessité de mettre un terme à la situation intolérable qui est faite aux populations Musulmanes de la Bulgarie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 228.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 14.)

Constantinople, le 5 Juin, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme du 2 de ce mois, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint une carte accompagnée d'un mémoire explicatif des questions qui ont divisé la Commission chargée de la délimitation des frontières Monténégrines.

Cette divergence d'opinions a pour point de départ l'opinion par la majorité des Délégués de la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien comme un document complémentaire des Articles du Traité de Berlin à prendre en considération.

Notre Commissaire ne s'est pas cru autorisé à se rallier à l'avis de ses collègues. Une carte ne pourrait évidemment être considérée comme appendice à un acte international que tout autant que, basée sur des travaux topographiques réguliers, elle serait à la conclusion de ce Traité formellement adoptée par les Plénipotentiaires des Puissances Signataires. Or, la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien ne remplit aucune de ces conditions.

La Commission des frontières Monténégrines ne peut, dès lors, que s'en tenir exclusivement au texte du Traité, à l'instar des autres Commissions de Délimitation. Un tracé conforme aux indications de l'Article XXVIII, et basé sur des études topographiques est seul fait, à notre avis, pour préparer une solution juste et pratique.

Je vous prie de faire valoir ces considérations aux yeux du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique et de l'amener à ordonner à son Commissaire de faire, d'accord avec ses collègues, une reconnaissance générale du terrain, suivie d'une levée topographique régulière sur laquelle la Sublime Porte et les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin se baseront pour décider toutes les questions en litige. Une fois ses questions résolues, il ne restera plus qu'à appliquer le tracé sur le terrain.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

Inclosure in No. 228.

*Mémoire.**

QUELLE que soit la carte que la Commission technique a prise à Berlin comme base de ses études, il est incontestable que cette carte n'a pas été produite dans le Congrès qui a statué uniquement sur les Rapports de son Altesse le Prince Hohenlohe, consignés dans les Protocoles. Le 19me Protocole porte que la désignation des lieux a été faite d'après la Carte Autrichienne, mais cette énonciation du Prince Hohenlohe, qui n'avait d'autre but évidemment que de justifier la manière dont les noms des localités sont rapportés dans les actes de délimitation, ne donne à la carte Autrichienne aucune consécration particulière, encore moins autoriserait-elle à s'écarter du texte précis du Traité pour faire prévaloir un tracé dépourvu de toute autorité. La carte à laquelle on donne communément, quoique à tort, la qualification de Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, a servi également pour les délimitations de la frontière Roumélioto, Serbe, Bulgare, &c. Cette circonstance n'a pas cependant empêché les Commissions spécialement chargées de ces travaux de corriger les erreurs qu'elles ont été dans le cas de constater. Il en devrait donc être de même pour la frontière Monténégrine, d'autant plus que les erreurs matérielles pour ce qui concerne cette frontière sont plus grandes que pour les autres parties.

Les quelques observations qui suivent suffiront pour en donner une idée, si l'on veut bien jeter les yeux seulement sur le tracé ci-joint:

1. Dans le paragraphe de l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin, relatif à la ligne qui doit passer entre le Lac de Scutari et la Mer Adriatique, on trouve que la ligne-frontière doit passer entre Megured et Kalimed.

La Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien donne, en effet, Kalimed comme un village. Et cependant il n'existe aucun village de nom de Kalimed. Kalimed est une colline près du village de Mikolik.

* La ligne-marquée au rouge est le tracé Autrichien; celle qui est marquée à l'encre noir indique le tracé que nous avons fait conformément au texte de l'Article XXVIII du Traité de Berlin.

2. L'îlot nommé par erreur sur la Carte Autrichienne Gorica-Topal n'est autre, d'après la topographie du terrain, que Gorica-Planik. Le véritable Gorica-Topal se trouve plus au nord-ouest du lac; c'est un îlot situé près de Gorica-Plak, à environ 13 kilom. du groupe de la Carte Autrichienne, vis-à-vis de Sistan. La Commission, tout en reconnaissant que l'île de la carte ne se nomme pas Gorica-Topal, soutient, que le Congrès a eu l'intention de faire passer le tracé par l'île inexactement appelée Gorica-Topal. Cette allégation est d'autant moins admissible qu'il existe, comme il a été dit plus haut, une île du nom de Gorica-Topal, dont l'identité se trouve être établie par des documents officiels.

3. D'après un passage de l'Article XXVIII du Traité, la nouvelle frontière se dirigera de la Plaine de Podgoritza sur Plawnica. Or, le Plawnica de la Carte Autrichienne est un village du nom de Zetitza; le véritable Plawnica est plus à l'ouest, du côté de Yabiak.

4. Dans le même Article, on lit ce passage:

"La nouvelle frontière se confond ensuite avec les limites actuelles entre la tribu des Kuci-Drekalovici, d'un côté, et la Kucka-Krajna, ainsi que les tribus des Klementi et Grudi, de l'autre, jusqu'à la plaine de Podgoritza, d'où elle se dirige sur Plawnica, laissant à l'Albanie les tribus des Klementi, Grudi et Hoti."

La Carte Autrichienne trace très-inexactement les limites des Grudi-Klementi-Kucka-Krajna: elle met le territoire de la tribu des Klementi sur un point qui appartient presque exclusivement à la tribu des Grudi, dans la circonscription de laquelle se trouve aussi Selisté. Le territoire de Klementi est plus au nord de la désignation de la Carte Autrichienne.

Il est à remarquer, en outre, que le nom de Kucka-Krajna ne figure pas sur cette carte. Cette localité est située en avant de Grudi.

La nouvelle frontière, si elle était tracée d'après la Carte Autrichienne, passerait, à en juger par la topographie du terrain, à travers le territoire des tribus de Klementi, Grudi, et Kucka-Krajna, et laisserait ainsi au Monténégro une portion considérable de ce territoire, tandis que le Traité l'attribue tout entier à l'Albanie.

Il est encore d'autres erreurs qui pourront être constatées par des travaux topographiques.

No. 229.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 14.)

Athens, June 13, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of 11th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received a note from Greek Government requesting me to convey their thanks to Her Majesty's Government for receiving favourably their appeal for mediation, stipulated by XXIVth Article of Treaty of Berlin; they will nominate Plenipotentiaries to go to Constantinople to renew negotiations broken off at Prevesa, and will communicate their names as soon as they are appointed.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 230.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 14.)

Athens, June 13, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, I have the honour to report that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me, by a note dated the 11th instant, that M. Condouriotis, Greek Minister at Constantinople, and M. Brailas Armenis, Greek Minister at St. Petersburgh, have been named Plenipotentiaries at Constantinople.

The number of Plenipotentiaries will be increased if the Porte should appoint more than two.

In making the above communication, Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed the hope that this proceeding will tend to bring about a result in conformity with the decisions taken by the Powers, as recorded in 13th Protocol of Congress of Berlin, from which the Greek Government must not depart.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 231.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 14.)

Sophia, June 13, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegram of 10th, approving of my meeting Prince at Tirnova, where Constituent Assembly has been already summoned for 9th of July.

No. 232.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

Foreign Office, June 14, 1879.

(No. 325.)

Sir,

IN the course of a conversation which I had on the 11th instant with the Italian Ambassador, his Excellency referred to a communication which I had made to him upon a previous day with reference to the guarantee which Turkey might demand against any further enterprises on the part of Greece, if she now made a cession of territory to avert them. He said that the Italian Government considered that they were more unconcerned upon this question than several of the Great Powers, because the guarantee of Greece, given at her independence, which might prove an obstacle to self-defence on the part of Turkey, had never been acceded to by the Government of Italy, which was formed at a period considerably posterior to that epoch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 233.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 15.)

St. Petersburgh, June 14, 1879.

(No. 93.)

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 113 of yesterday, M. de Giers says that he had not heard that force had been employed, but that permission had been given to Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff to oblige Servians to retire out of Bulgarian territory within line of frontier laid down by the Commission. In spite of summons to quit on two occasions, Servians not only persisted in remaining in places assigned to Bulgaria, but were cutting down forests and doing other acts to the detriment of the Bulgarian Administration.

No. 234.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 15.)

St. Petersburgh, June 14, 1879.

(No. 94.)

(Telegraphic.)

M. BRAILAS, Greek Minister here, starts to-morrow for Athens; he goes to Constantinople as one of the Greek Commissioners on the frontier question.

No. 235.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

TAKE Cypher G. I have received your telegram of the 13th in this cypher, but much disfigured in transmission.

The villages lately reoccupied by the Bulgarian troops and officials were assigned to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Berlin and the Frontier Commission, and had been unlawfully usurped by the Servians, with Russian connivance, some months ago, so that the Servian demand of a further delay is a mere stratagem.

No. 236.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Diarbekir, May 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on Monday, the 28th ultimo, I met with a severe accident, which has confined me to my house and rendered me more or less incapable of work up to within the last day or two. My horse stunned me by a violent blow with his head. I fell head foremost on the hard road, and was severely cut about the temples by a sharp stone, losing much blood, besides receiving minor injuries. I was insensible for about half an hour. My general health is now almost recovered, but I have still an open wound on the head, which will, however, I trust, not interfere with the journey to Erzeroum, on which I am about to start, in compliance with telegraphic instructions received from Her Majesty's Envoy Plenipotentiary at Constantinople.

I regret to state that the prospects of the vilayet are anything but encouraging. I am well pleased, however, that the Russian Consul, M. Yakimanski, has at last arrived, as his presence will in my absence be an undoubted check on the mis-government of the province. He reached this on Sunday, and was met outside the gates of the city by the Armenian Bishop, Philippos, himself a Russian by birth, and a large rabble of lower class Armenians.

The Bishop presented the Consul with bread and salt. Owing to the knowledge that the Bishop intended to make a somewhat ridiculous demonstration, the leading members of the Christian communities held aloof, and did not take any part in the reception of the Consul, which was in consequence by no means a flattering one, as, with the exception of the Bishop and an officer sent by the Governor, no respectable people were out.

I have exchanged visits with the new Consul, who speaks French, Greek, and a little Arabic, but has no knowledge of Turkish. He appears to be a pleasant and well-informed man, but on our slight acquaintance I will not commit myself to any further description. His last appointment was at Corfu.

Serious disturbances have occurred during the past three weeks in three separate portions of the vilayet. In the desert the Kiki Kurds had a fight with the Shamar Arabs, in which fifteen of the former and three of the latter are reported killed. In the Mazi Dagh Mountains, between Deyrik* and Mardin (the lawless state of which I prominently alluded to in my despatch No. 22 of the 22nd March), a fight took place between opposing tribes of Kurds at a village 1½ hours from Deyrik, in which thirteen men were killed, while at Veran Shahr (a few hours south-west of Deyrik), a mixed village of Kurds, Christians, and Yezidis, another fight occurred in which the Karagechi Kurds, assisted by the Gez Arabs from near Orfa, attacked the Millis and Yezidis, killing fifteen of their number. The inhabitants of Veran Shahr are said to have fled for safety into the Karaja Mountains.

Three companies of soldiers have been ordered from Malatia to Veran Shah, and one company has been sent from Diarbekir to Deyrik, but as long as Kurds and Arabs only fight against each other, and do not rebel directly against the Porte, the Government appears to take very little interest in what goes on. As the police force of this vilayet, greatly reduced by desertion, is still twenty-two months in arrears of pay, it can hardly be expected to be a very reliable instrument for keeping the peace.

The Sert Sandjak is, I hear, in a very disordered state, and there is little doubt that were it not for the presence of six battalions of troops in Sert, Jezireh, and the neighbourhood, we should hear of serious disturbances. There are frequent acts of brigandage, and the Governor, Said Pasha, an able and upright man, complains to the Vali that although he sends soldiers and arrests the robbers, yet gold applied to the local Medjlisses generally ensures the release of the culprits.

It had been my intention to travel through the Sert Sandjak on my way to Van, but recent orders to proceed with urgency to Erzeroum compel me to leave that portion of the vilayet unvisited.

In the Mardin Sandjak the Governor, Khoorshid Bey (one of the exiles from Constantinople), has been making a tour throughout his province, during which he is said to have plundered to the extent of thirty-six horses and 2,500*l.* in gold, the booty either being about to be, or having been, divided between the Governor and his Medjliss. Petitions have been presented to the Vali on the subject, and the Cadi told

* Deyrik is 40 miles south of Diarbekir.

me yesterday that the question was about to be referred to Constantinople as to whether the inquiry, which it is proposed holding, should take place here or at Constantinople.

Meanwhile, although it is several weeks since, Daniel Effendi (the Commissioner appointed by the Mardin Governor to inquire into the Midyard assault case) sent in his Report, which confirmed the guilt of the accused parties. No action has as yet been taken, and the crime remains unpunished. I am aware, however, that the American Minister has been stirring in the matter at Constantinople, and the authorities here in Diarbekir are in consequence exerting themselves in the matter, so that there is still some small hope of a satisfactory solution.

There have been several serious cases of prosecution of Protestants by Jacobites and others both in the Mardin and Sert sandjaks. Said Pasha, the Governor of Sert, has, on my telegraphic representations, acted with energy and justice, and during the past fortnight matters have been quieter, *i.e.*, I have received no new complaints from either quarter.

In addition to the chronic anarchy developing in a somewhat more acute form than usual, and to glaring extortions by a provincial Governor on a somewhat extraordinary scale, this province is visited by a severe drought, and although the old Diarbekir remedy (viz., robbing the Jews' cemetery, cutting a couple of heads off the corpses, and throwing them into the Tigris) has been tried and found wanting in efficiency, we are threatened with much distress. I was informed to-day by a competent authority that three-fourths of the grain crop throughout the vilayet are now irretrievably ruined. The price of wheat stands at 180 piastres the kileh (equal 1 quarter), as against 40 piastres at the corresponding period last year. This and a probable further rise need not produce famine, as there are, I believe, large stores of old wheat in hand, but the high prices will cause great distress to an already impoverished people. This, however, is not the worst. There is an almost total failure in the southern parts of the vilayet of grass and straw; cattle, which a few days ago were selling at 500 piastres a-head, are now offered for sale at 300 piastres. If rain were to fall now in considerable quantities it would benefit the pasture lands, but would be too late to save the crops.

I am about to leave the province with considerable misgivings. I leave anarchy and corruption behind me, and a Governor in whom I have no confidence. I should in no way be surprised to learn that one of his first acts after my departure will be the release of several notoriously oppressive Kurdish Aghas, who, to the great benefit of their respective districts, have for the past several months been forcibly detained in Diarbekir.

I had hoped to have left as my representative a paid Vice-Consul, but Her Majesty's Government not having sanctioned my proposal, I shall make the best arrangements in my power for procuring accurate information as to what goes on during my probably lengthened absence from the vilayet. I have no reason to expect any immediate catastrophe, but I hardly think it possible that misgovernment, such as at present exists, can continue much longer without some violent effervescence as the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 237.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 28. Consular.)
Jeddah, May 28, 1879.

My Lord,

IT is with pleasure I have the honour to report that the presence of the Governor-General has been very beneficial to this town, and his Excellency is now convinced that his visit was much required.

I had a long conversation with him yesterday. He candidly told me he was surprised at the confusion and disorder he found in the Administration here—a condition of things which cannot be rectified but by the appointment of able and properly-qualified officers. His Excellency said he could now quite understand the signification of the letter I wrote to him, and which brought him here, and he was very glad he came, as he was now able to appreciate what was required to put order into the Administration, and to put an end to the Slave Trade.

We discussed in detail the following subjects:—

1. The organization and maintenance of a proper police force.
2. The cleansing of the town, and municipal control over buildings.
3. The cleansing of the quarantine-station and landing-pier.
4. The buoying of reefs and sunken rocks in the port, the enlargement of existing beacons, and the construction of beacons on reefs in the neighbourhood which have no indications to show their position.
5. The construction of a passage for boats from the pier to the harbour.
6. The formation of a corps of pilots for the port of Jeddah.
7. Water-supply for Jeddah.
8. The establishment of proper Tribunals.
9. The stopping of the Slave Trade.

On all these points his Excellency has spoken very earnestly. He very properly said that so many measures could not be undertaken simultaneously, nor could they, or any of them, be put in order or carried out immediately; but he intended to give his attention to them all, and he asked me to assist him with suggestions.

I shall treat in detail the subjects marked 1 to 8, in this despatch, in separate despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 238.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 29. Consular.)
Jeddah, May 28, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Governor-General has had such patent proofs of the inefficiency and corruption of the police force in this town, that he has been obliged to make several changes at once.

He has substantiated what I have hitherto maintained—that the police were secretly aiding the Slave Trade; that they allowed gambling and the unrestricted sale of intoxicating liquors, and that burglars and thieves were permitted to carry on their trade without fear of being arrested.

Hassan Agha, the chief officer of the police, has been placed under arrest, and, being a military man, will be tried by Court-Martial at Mecca. The main charge against him is connivance at the Slave Trade.

The police force has been increased, and those officers who have proved lax in their duties, or who are known to be drunkards, are to be sent away.

The distribution of the force is likewise to be changed; instead of the men being kept to protect the town alone, pickets will be stationed on the coast to stop smuggling and the landing of slaves.

These are all good dispositions, and, if properly carried out, they will do much good; but I much fear that, after the departure of the Governor-General, the old state of disorder will return. I have said this to his Excellency, and while he has assured me that he will use his best efforts to keep the authorities to their duty, I have promised to keep him informed how his orders are carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 239.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 33. Consular.)
Jeddah, May 29, 1879.

My Lord,

IT is with great satisfaction I have to report that the Governor-General has been convinced by personal inspection, that there is not a Tribunal or department in the Administration of Jeddah competent to carry on the duties of Government, and he told me yesterday that he had applied to Constantinople for a President for the Commercial Tribunal, and a Judge to form a Court of First Instance to try criminal

offenders. He told me that the Medjlis-i-Idaré (Government Council) consisted of men altogether incapable, and he led me to understand that their President, the Kaïmakam was as unfit. Of the other departments of the Government, he spoke in surprised disdain. The Commercial Tribunal he termed no Tribunal at all, and he begged me to have as little to do with it as I could till it was reorganized. The only functionary of whose conduct he has approved is the Collector of Customs, who certainly shines brightly amidst the ignorance, fanaticism, and stupidity by which he is surrounded.

I believe his Excellency has recommended to the Porte many changes, and I suspect the removal of the Kaïmakam has been asked for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 240.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 14. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, June 3, 1879.

My Lord,

MANY of the public journals having published a text of the late Convention concluded between Austro-Hungary and the Porte, which would appear to be authentic, I beg to offer a few remarks thereon.

By Article I, which states that the Administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina will be conducted by Austro-Hungary, that Power undertakes to avail itself of the services of the former officials in so far as they possess the necessary qualifications for the fit performance of their duties, and to especially give preference to natives of the province. This is a mere empty pledge, for German and Slav being now the only recognized official languages, scarcely one of the former employés can be made use of. Under the Turkish régime the officials were almost exclusively Mussulmans, very few of whom could either read or write Slav, and of course none were acquainted with German. The Kaïmakams, Mudirs, &c., who were at first left at their posts, are, therefore, being now gradually replaced by Austrian functionaries. Austria probably would be very glad to employ natives if capable men could be found, for her own officials do not remain willingly in the country, and natives would be content with lower salaries.

Article II refers to religious freedom, and especially to the solicitude to be shown for the Mussulmans in all their religious customs and practices. It stipulates that the name of the Sultan be openly mentioned in the public prayers as heretofore, and that the custom of hoisting the Turkish flag on minarets be respected. The liberty to pray for the Sultan in the mosque is really nothing more than was granted by the Turkish Government to the Catholics, who for many years past have openly prayed in their churches for the Emperor of Austria. As regards the hoisting of the flag on minarets, there are only two minarets in the whole of Bosnia where it has been the custom to do so. One of these is at Serajevo, and the other, I believe, at Tuzla, and such a display can in no way offend either Austrian or native Christian susceptibilities.

Article III states that the revenue of Bosnia and the Herzegovina is to be exclusively applied to the expenses of the local administration, and to the needs of the country. There is no fear, I should say, for many years to come, of any part of the revenue being otherwise expended, for there is so much to be done in the way of public works which are absolutely necessary for the welfare and development of the country, that the chance of there being any surplus of receipts over expenditure is very remote. Although efforts are being made to keep down the expenses of the local administration, even to the extent of not appointing a sufficient number of functionaries to get through the current work of the moment, there is every probability even of a considerable deficit this year. No proper finance department has yet been organized, and owing to the short-sighted policy adopted at the commencement of the Austrian occupation of dispensing with the services of the Turkish officials who alone were versed in provincial fiscal matters, the greatest difficulty and irregularity has prevailed in the collection of the taxes. It is estimated that a loss of at least 1,500,000 florins has been thus occasioned to the Government in Bosnia. In the Herzegovina, however, matters were otherwise managed. The whole administration was

not immediately upset, the Turkish officials were temporarily retained, and the taxes were consequently collected with tolerable exactitude.

Article IV of the Convention says that Ottoman coin is to pass current in the country. Nothing but the Austrian paper currency is now seen, but I am not aware that any restriction has been placed on the circulation of Turkish coin. Even under the Turkish Government but little Turkish coin was seen in this province, and, until the introduction of the caimé currency 20 fr. pieces, Austrian ducats, old Austrian zwanzigers, and various other coins of different countries were the circulating medium of the province.

Article V gives the Porte the right to dispose of all the arms and war material found in the fortified places and garrisons. In consequence of this agreement much of the ammunition has been already, I believe, transported to the frontier. Of small arms I imagine but few were found, as they were all distributed to the people last year, before the entry of the Austrians, but there must be a good many pieces of artillery of more or less value scattered over the country in the various small forts and citadels.

Article VI, which refers to the arrangements to be come to regarding the treatment of natives of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, when beyond the province, needs no remark from me.

The remaining four Articles and the Annex refer to the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar. As far as I can learn the Austrian troops are not likely to advance before the end of July. This is probably to allow of the harvest being first gathered in. Were, indeed, any advance made before the hay harvest, great difficulty would be experienced in providing forage for the animals. For some months past, with a view to the occupation of the sandjak, provisions and ammunition have been collected in considerable quantities at Gorazda, Foca, and other places on the frontier, and at the present moment the roads from here onwards are being put into a state of repair which, though it will not perhaps render them available for wheeled vehicles, will at all events ensure the non-interruption of communications by horse. The opinion seems to be entertained by the Austrians here that any further advance of their troops will not be effected without a certain amount of fighting, and natives with whom I have spoken on the subject think it not improbable that some resistance may be offered, especially in the neighbourhood of Taslidza, although they say much will depend on the loyal co-operation of the Turkish authorities.

It is exceedingly difficult to ascertain with accuracy the strength of the military force actually in this province. The authorities object to afford any information on the subject, being anxious, I fancy, that the strength should be over-estimated. I believe, however, the following estimate to be tolerably correct:—80 battalions infantry, 2 regiments cavalry, 2 batteries field artillery, 20 batteries mountain artillery, and 42 companies sappers and miners. This would give a total of about 60,000 men, which should be amply sufficient for all purposes. According to the Annex to the Convention, Austria only intends for the present to occupy Priboj, Prjepolje, and Bjelopolje, and with garrisons not exceeding 5,000 men. The remaining 45,000 should certainly suffice to maintain order in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, for there is not, I believe, the remotest chance of any rising in the districts already occupied.

The conclusion of the Convention can hardly be said to have had a beneficial effect on the country, as it tends to prolong the provisional character of the occupation. The Austrian officials, both civil and military, profess most undisguised indignation, although I am inclined to think that they attribute greater importance to the Convention than it merits. It is generally surmised that the occupation of these provinces by Austria will be permanent, and the Convention is thought to have rendered a declaration of annexation more difficult. Until, however, such declaration be made, the progress of the country will be very slow. That portion of the population, whether Christian or Moslem, which is favourable to the Austrians, hesitates to embrace unreservedly their cause as long as there is any prospect, however remote, of the country being again brought under Turkish rule, while the hopes of the hostile faction are kept up and nourished. The provisional character of the occupation is also a great drawback to all private commercial enterprize, as respectable men of business and persons of substance are disinclined to place any considerable capital in the country as long as the future is shrouded in uncertainty.

I would only remark, in conclusion, that the Austrians have, unfortunately, not so far succeeded in gaining the sympathies of the native population. This is, perhaps, to a considerable extent, on account of the tardiness with which the Administration of

the country is being organized, but also owing to the partiality shown by many officials, according to their national bias or their religious prejudices, for one or other of the different sects which make up the population of these provinces. In spite of this, however, I think there is a constantly-increasing majority, more especially among the Mussulmans, who, whatever their personal sympathies, resignedly accept the occupation of the country by Austria as inevitable, and even acknowledge it to be the only possible present solution of the Slav question as regards Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 241.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 7, 1879.*

THE Italian and Russian Ministers have just called on me, the former to say that, as he goes on leave to-morrow, he will send in to-day to the Greek Government a note inviting them to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople to continue the negotiations with the Porte for a rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier.

The Russian Minister told me he also proposes to go away from Athens to-morrow, and he will leave a note addressed to the Greek Government, and in the same sense, to be delivered on the day the remaining Representatives of the Great Powers present a similar request to the Greek Government.

Referring to your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant, the Chargé d'Affaires of Austria has telegraphed to Vienna for instructions as to language he is to hold to the Government here on this subject. He has as yet received no reply.

German and French Chargé d'Affaires have taken no action so far, and the latter was desirous that the demand should be made simultaneously and verbally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 242.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 218.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation from the "Journal de St. Petersbourg" of this day, showing the new names under which the various forts at Kars will be known in the Russian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 242.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{May 31}}{\text{June 12}}$ 1879.

St. Pétersbourg, le 27 Mai.

PAR un ordre du jour dans le ressort de l'armée, en date du 17 Mai, le Gérant du Ministère de la Guerre fait savoir que Sa Majesté l'Empereur a décidé le 3 Mai que l'un des principaux forts de la forteresse de Kars prendrait le nom de Fort Empereur Alexandre II, la citadelle celui du Grand-Duc Michel, et tous les autres forts ceux des généraux et commandants de colonnes qui ont contribué à la prise de la forteresse de Kars.

Liste des forts de la forteresse de Kars:—

Anciennes Dénominations.	*Nouvelles Dénominations.*
1. Véli Pacha.	Empereur Alexander II.
2. Citadelle.	Grand-Duc Michel,
3. Inglis.	Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky.
4. Tchakhmakh.	Comte Loris Mélikow.
5. Kanly.	Lazarew.
6. Redoute avancée de gauche du Fort Kanly.	Comte Grabbé.
7. Redoute avancée de droite du Fort Kanly.	Bielinsky.
8. Souvary.	Prince Mélikow.
9. Ouvrage G.	Soliano.
10. Tchim.	Komarow.
11. Takhmas.	Boutchkiew.
12. Tikh-Tépé.	Roop.
13. Aï.	Pavlow.
14. Blum Pacha.	Schatilow.
15. Moukhlis.	Kokanow.
16. Karapoflakh (Arab).	Rydzevsky.
17. Karadagh.	Fadéiew.
18. Ziareth.	Röhrberg.
19. Hafiz Pacha.	Alkhazow.
20. Fézy Pacha.	Prince Tchavtchavadzé.
21. Redoute de gauche du Fort Fézy Pacha.	Kozelkow.
22. Redoute de droite du même fort.	Bulmering.

No. 243.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 263. Confidential.)

Rome, June 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 313, Confidential, of the 6th instant, inclosing a copy of Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 380, Very Confidential, of the 7th ultimo, in which he reports that he has been informed by Caratheodory Pasha, "very confidentially, that the Porte possesses proofs beyond question that the Italian Government is carrying on extensive intrigues in Albania with a view to promoting designs for the annexation, at some future period, of that province to Italy."

It may be so, although I venture to doubt it; but, at all events, I cannot help saying that if the Italian Government should really be entertaining this Quixotic enterprize, they will certainly not be supported in its execution either by the Italian Parliament or by public opinion in this country.

Reports respecting the designs of Italy upon Albania are of no recent origin; but I think it must be owned that whatever may have been the projects of Italian filibusters and revolutionists, there has hitherto been nothing to justify the assumption that these projects have been countenanced by the Italian Government.

It seems to me, too, that if the Italian Government were harbouring the idea of a future annexation of Albania to Italy, their policy in regard to the Greco-Turkish frontier question would have been different from what it is; that instead of advocating an arrangement with a view to a peaceful settlement, they would rather have continued to support a scheme which, in their opinion, was calculated to be productive of future complications, for, in order to undertake a military expedition for the purpose of annexing Albania, there must be some excuse for doing so, and it is difficult to imagine how this could be found, in the absence of troubles amongst the population, and where peaceful relations are established between Greece and Turkey, which is the result hoped for by the Italian Government in the event of their views in regard to the present differences being adopted.

I cannot, of course, pretend to form any opinion as to the source from whence

Caratheodory Pasha may have derived his information, but I should be surprised to hear that it had come from the Turkish Minister here, who has frequently spoken to me about the frontier question, but has never evinced the slightest suspicion as to the designs of Italy on Albania. He has, on the contrary, invariably expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the policy of the Italian Government respecting the question now pending between Turkey and Greece.

Your Lordship will, of course, understand that my present observations refer to the state of things as at present existing. If there should be a question of a foreign occupation of Albania by another Power, the attitude of the Italian Government might change; and it may be that, contemplating the possibility of the contingency alluded to arising, the Italian Government may think it better policy to show a friendly interest in Albania rather than the reverse; but this differs very widely from the assertion of Caratheodory Pasha, that the Italian Government is carrying on extensive intrigues in Albania with a view to its ulterior annexation by Italy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 244.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 266. Very Confidential.)

Rome, June 11, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE writing my despatch No. 263 of the 9th instant, I have had a conversation with my Turkish colleague which entirely confirms my impression that the information received by Caratheodory Pasha respecting Italian intrigues in Albania did not proceed from him.

After speaking of the frontier question, and the line taken by the Italian Government respecting it, Turkhan Bey, of his own accord, alluded to the ambitious views so frequently and persistently attributed to Italy in regard to Albania, expressing his entire disbelief in their reality.

The opinion of Turkhan Bey is, that on the whole the Italian Government is a sincere friend and well-wisher of Turkey. He had always found, he said, the language of M. Depretis to be perfectly consistent on this subject; he had never observed any contradiction between his Excellency's professions and his acts; and he mentioned particularly a conversation which he had had with his Excellency not very long ago, in which these sentiments were so emphatically expressed that he had made a special report of them to his Government.

Turkhan Bey said that he did not delude himself by supposing that the love of Turkey was the principal motive of the policy of the Italian Government in regard to the Greek frontier question. He attributed their repugnance to the proposed cession in Epirus to the settled conviction which they had, and which Turkhan Bey said was certain to be verified, that it would give rise to armed resistance by the Albanians, with the possible consequence of an intervention by Austria.

Turkhan Bey thought it not at all unnatural that under these circumstances, and with a view to the possibilities of the future, the Italian Government should show a friendly interest in the Albanians. Russia protected the Bulgarians, France the Greeks, why should not Italy, he inquired, protect the Albanians? But in regard to Italy being engaged in operations with the settled purpose of preparing the ground for an eventual annexation of that province, he must say that he looked upon such an idea as entirely gratuitous and unfounded; and he then proceeded to discuss, in a manner in which I quite agreed with him, the inadequacy of the physical power of Italy to undertake any such enterprize, even if she had the will to do so; and I hope I may be pardoned for adding that if those who advance such decided statements respecting Italian designs would reflect a little more on the above consideration, and were a little better acquainted with public feeling in Italy, they would be less prone to see mischief where none in reality exists: for there is not a political party, worthy of that name, which has not for its primary purpose and object to reform and consolidate the internal administration, to endeavour to make the expenses come within the income, and consequently to abstain from all kinds of adventurous undertakings in foreign affairs.

My belief is, as I have often before stated, that the policy of Italy is one of peace; a conservative policy which, independently of other considerations, is forced upon her

by her own internal circumstances and condition. The Italian Government wishes for the strict observance of the Treaty of Berlin, and so long as that Treaty is adhered to and the present balance of power in the Mediterranean is maintained, there need, in my opinion, be no apprehension of Italy being the cause of any fresh disturbance in Europe.

But it will easily be understood that Italy cannot be indifferent to the ambition of other Powers on the Eastern side of the Adriatic or in the Mediterranean.

I need hardly assure your Lordship that in my conversation with Turkhan Bey I was very careful not to make the slightest allusion to the information contained in Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 380, Most Confidential, of the 7th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 245.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 267. Confidential.) *Rome, June 11, 1879.*

My Lord,

A CIRCUMSTANCE has come to my knowledge from a source upon which I can place perfect reliance, which would go to show that, whatever Italy may be doing in Albania, another Power in more immediate proximity to that province is not neglecting its interests there.

By order of their Government, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors to the Vatican and the Quirinal have both been in communication, the latter indirectly, with the Head of the Propaganda, with a view to obtain the removal of the Italian Catholic priests in Albania, owing to the influence they are supposed to be exercising there, and their replacement by native, or failing these by Austrian priests.

I am informed, however, that the representations of their Excellencies have not met with a favourable response.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 246.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 352.) *Vienna, June 12, 1879.*

My Lord,

EDHEM PASHA has spoken to me about the Circular despatch which he has been instructed by the Porte to communicate to the Austrian Government, protesting against the persecutions to which the Mussulman populations are being subjected in the district of Varna and other parts of Bulgaria.

I told him that the time was not at all favourable for entering into discussions upon proceedings that had taken place under a provisional Administration which was now on the point of expiring, and that it would be better for the Porte to reserve its representations till Prince Alexander was installed in the Principality. I said that I had myself pointed out to the Prince how necessary it would be for him at once to put an end to the persecution that the Mahommedans were suffering from, and that I had received from him in reply the most satisfactory assurances of his determination not to allow them to be made the victims of oppression. I added that I had no doubt of your Lordship having spoken to Prince Alexander in the same sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 247.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 16, 1879.*

RUSSIANS have arrested the individual who was Préfet of Tru during Servian occupation. Servian Government have protested by telegraph to Russian Governor-General, alleging that this proceeding is a violation of international law.

It is reported at the same time that most of those who signed petitions to Powers have likewise been imprisoned.

No. 248.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 481.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, June 16, 1879.*

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Sandwith to-day:—

"Photiades Pasha tells me that the Porte has acceded to all the essential demands of Cretan Assembly except that relating to the vacoufs, to which, in his opinion, it could not accede. He trusts that the Assembly will not raise any serious contradiction on this point, and hopes that you will help him to put matter in a proper light. He intends to leave for Crete on Thursday."

No. 249.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 382.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 16, 1879.*

I APPROVE the language held by your Excellency to Edhem Pasha, as reported in your despatch No. 343, Confidential, of the 4th instant, on the subject of the policy of the Austrian Government towards Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 250.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 483.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 17, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 481, following telegram has been received from Mr. Sandwith, dated yesterday:—

"I do not anticipate that any serious objection will be made by the Assembly to the refusal of the Porte to demand about Vacoufs."

No. 251.

Consul-General Mickell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 17, 1879.*

BARON RING has left for Constantinople with Secretaries; intends to be absent about eight days. Coutouly here.

No. 252.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1879, 5·30 P.M.

IT may be well you should renew the warning against Mahmoud Nedim you gave last year. His appointment to a high post must necessarily alter our policy entirely.

No. 253.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1879, 7 P.M.

YOURS No. 480.

By despatches of 10th instant, now on their way to you, it is arranged that Major Wilson shall have Aidin under him without interfering with Smyrna, and that Lieutenant Chermside shall be Vice-Consul at Brussa instead of Gilbertson.

No. 254.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 794. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1879.

Sir,

AS reports are current of the possible return to office of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, I have thought it right to authorize your Excellency by telegraph to renew the warning given to the Sultan last year against his employment.

His appointment to a post of importance in the Government would necessarily affect very seriously the policy of Her Majesty's Government towards Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 255.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

(Private and Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1879.

My dear Count Károlyi,

I HAVE considered very carefully the communication you were kind enough to make to me, on behalf of Count Andrassy, with respect to the proposed Greek frontier, and the question whether it should assign Janina to Greece or Turkey. I concur with Count Andrassy in thinking that it would be premature to come to any conclusive or formal decision upon the subject until the matter has been discussed among the Ambassadors to whom the conduct of the mediation at Constantinople has been referred. But the communications between our two Governments have been so frank and unreserved, that I should not do rightly in concealing from you that, *primâ facie*, Her Majesty's Government see grave objections to the proposal that the Powers should demand the cession of Janina to Greece. They do not understand it to have been included in the Berlin line, and they did not so accept the Berlin line when it was proposed; but as that line was avowedly only designated in general terms, this circumstance would not, in itself, be of great weight. The real objection to the cession lies in the consequences it is likely to entail. The Turkish Government obviously view it with extreme aversion; and their feeling in that respect is dictated, probably, not by the value of the country to them (for it is not rich), but by the fact that it is inhabited by Mahommedans, whose influence over the whole of Albania is great. Its cession, consequently, could not be accepted by the Porte without profoundly alienating the affections of the Albanian people. The proposal, therefore, is likely to be strongly resisted on the part of Turkey. Even if it should be accepted, there is great doubt whether it could be peaceably accomplished. The Albanians, in their own country, defending almost impregnable positions, are more than a match for any force which

the Greeks could bring against them. On the other hand, the exaltation amongst the Greeks is so great, and the Government is so bound by the public pledges which it has given, that, if they are supported by the unanimous decision of the Six Powers, they will probably make an attempt to obtain the country by force of arms. The first result, therefore, of this effort at pacification will be the outbreak of a war; and the Austrian Government are well aware that war arising on the borders of Epirus is not likely to be long confined to that locality. I will not dwell on the varied dangers to which this circumstance might give rise, for they are as well known to your Excellency as to me.

Against these very great dangers Count Andrassy appears to set the consideration, that the Greeks will not be satisfied without this cession, and that, therefore, no permanent pacification can be expected from an arrangement which does not include it. I gather from this argument that Count Andrassy expects that, if the present line is drawn according to the claims of the Greeks, Turkey may count on a permanent exemption from further Greek hostility. I am obliged to say that I do not share this sanguine view. I have no doubt the Powers will do, as they ought to do, all that lies in them in order to prevent Greece from reopening the question which they are now making an effort to close; but the ambitions of the Hellenic people extend far beyond any line which it is now possible to draw, and no engagement into which their Government may enter will prevent them from forcing that Government to further aggression whenever a favourable opportunity may seem to them to have arisen. I do not think, therefore, that it is worth while to incur a great probability of war at the present moment for the poor chance of preventing the Greeks from pursuing their traditional aspirations at some future period.

I need hardly say that I must request your Excellency to consider this communication as strictly confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 256.

M. de Giers to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Schouvaloff, June 18.)

(Circulaire.)

Livadia, le 25 *Mai*, 1879.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOTRE Excellence n'ignore pas les difficultés que soulève, en ce moment, la délimitation Turco-Monténégrine.

La Commission Européenne chargée de cette tâche, après avoir siégé inutilement depuis bientôt deux mois, a été obligée de suspendre ses travaux.

La responsabilité en retombe exclusivement sur la Porte. Ses Délégués ont refusé de s'associer au travail de leurs collègues étrangers si la Carte de l'Etat-major Austro-Hongrois, dont le Congrès s'est servi pour indiquer la nouvelle frontière Turco-Monténégrine, était reconnu comme base de la délimitation. Ils ont ainsi rejeté le tracé cartographique sur lequel les Puissances étaient tombées d'accord à la suite du Traité de Berlin.

En présence de cette opposition de leurs collègues Ottomans, les Commissaires Européens ont cru devoir demander à leurs Gouvernements respectifs l'autorisation de passer outre et de continuer l'œuvre de la délimitation sans participation des Délégués Turcs.

Nous ne connaissons pas encore la résolution définitive des Cabinets relativement à la proposition susmentionnée. Cependant le Gouvernement Allemand nous a déjà informé qu'il adhérait pour sa part, et nous croyons savoir qu'il en est de même du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois. Quant à nous, nous n'avons pas hésité à l'accepter, et nous avons muni notre Délégué d'instructions dans ce sens.

Il nous semble en effet impossible de laisser se prolonger indéfiniment l'état d'incertitude que les embarras suscités par les Commissaires Ottomans tendent à créer sur la frontière Turco-Monténégrine; cet état de choses laisse en suspens des stipulations du Traité de Berlin d'une grande importance locale, et pourrait provoquer des malentendus contraires au but d'apaisement et de pacification que poursuivent les Puissances.

Le désaccord radical qui s'est produit entre les Délégués Turcs et leurs collègues étrangers au sein de la Commission Monténégrine démontre la nécessité de trancher une fois pour toutes s'il est possible les difficultés qui ce désaccord soulève. C'est

notamment à la délimitation entre le Lac de Scutari et la mer que les Commissaires Ottomans n'ont pas voulu participer en se refusant d'admettre la Carte de l'Etat-Major Austro-Hongrois.

Afin d'éviter à l'avenir des contestations de cette nature quant à la nouvelle délimitation, il serait utile de prescrire aux Délégués des Puissances de s'en tenir constamment au tracé de la carte susmentionnée.

Nous ne nions pas que les indications de la carte du Traité de Berlin ne répondent pas toujours à la solution réelle de certaines localités. Ces inexactitudes devraient être naturellement prises en considération par la Commission Européenne. Elle ne sauraient toutefois entraîner aucune modification de l'esprit dans lequel les Cabinets ont cherché à établir le tracé de la frontière sur la carte. Ce n'est pas en cherchant à exploiter au profit de l'un des deux pays limitrophes des renseignements topographiques qui peuvent quelquefois se trouver en défaut, mais en s'inspirant des intentions impartiales et bienveillantes des Puissances que les Commissaires répondraient le mieux, selon nous, aux exigences de leur tâche.

Les détails de la délimitation Turco-Monténégrine nous paraissent exiger une attention toute particulière non-seulement au point de vue topographique, mais encore sous le rapport administratif et ethnographique. La frontière du Traité de Berlin divisé quelquefois en deux le même canton, on a séparé les membres d'une seule et même tribu par une limite factice. Ces défectuosités purement locales ne sauraient être attribuées qu'à un manque de renseignements suffisamment exacts. Tout en restant scrupuleusement fidèles au Traité les Commissaires Européens pourraient rechercher les solutions propres à mettre les intérêts des populations à l'abri des inconvénients qui résulteraient pour elles de ces erreurs involontaires.

Il nous semble enfin important de ne pas perdre de vue les considérations stratégiques et militaires qui doivent assurer tant à la Turquie qu'au Monténégro de bonnes positions défensives sur leurs frontières. Il serait regrettable de voir la Commission de Délimitation s'écarter de ce principe et favoriser l'une des deux parties en lui attribuant des positions dominantes grâce à des inexactitudes topographiques interprétées d'une manière partiale.

Selon nos renseignements les Turcs profitent déjà du fait qu'ils occupent matériellement des territoires au sujet desquels la Commission Européenne ne s'est pas encore prononcée, pour y construire des fortifications dans un but évidemment offensif, et par conséquent contraire à l'esprit des stipulations de Berlin. Cette manière d'agir ne saurait naturellement pas contribuer au rétablissement des bons rapports entre la Montagne Noire et la Porte.

Telles sont, M. l'Ambassadeur, les principales considérations que nous inspire la question de la frontière Turco-Monténégrine dans sa phase actuelle. Nous serions heureux de les voir partagées par le Gouvernement auprès duquel votre Excellence est accréditée et de lui voir donner à son Délégué des instructions analogues à celles que nous faisons parvenir au nôtre. Veuillez bien vous en expliquer avec lui dans ce sens.

Je ne crois pas inutile d'ajouter que le rappel de Hussein Pacha, Gouverneur de Scutari, serait à notre avis un des meilleurs moyens d'en arriver à une solution plus prompte des difficultés en suspens du côté de la Montagne Noire.

Il nous revient que ce fonctionnaire s'oppose entre autres à la remise au Monténégro du district de Goussigné, comme il s'est opposé jadis à la remise de Podgoritza sous prétexte de l'opposition des populations locales. Ce prétexte n'est sans doute pas plus sérieux aujourd'hui que dans le cas de cette ville, dont la prise de possession par le Prince Nicolas n'a soulevé aucun obstacle. L'éloignement de Hussein Pacha mettrait sans doute fin à ces dangereuses intrigues.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 257.

Captain Sale, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 10.) *Scutari, Albania, June* 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have this day sent a telegram, of which the following is the substance, viz.:—

"The Commission are unemployed pending replies to the identical telegram sent on the 25th ultimo by each Commissioner to his own Government."

"The Vali of Scutari has just made a communication, in which he states that he can now admit the Commission to all fortified places near the boundary; but the Commission were of opinion that they could not act on this communication until the replies of their Governments to their telegrams of the 25th ultimo were received, considering that no real progress can be made until this tendency to obstruction on the part of the local authorities is made to cease."

"In consequence of the line of action taken by the Turks no progress in actual demarcation has been made by the Commission."

In addition to the telegram given above, I would venture to remark to your Lordship that unless imperative orders are sent to the Turkish local authorities to work in good faith with the Commission for the settlement of the frontier there is little or no prospect of our making any progress; and, also, that it is very necessary that the Turkish Commissioners should be instructed that they are not at liberty to withdraw from the Commission (thereby stopping its work) whenever a decision is taken which they consider incorrect.

In the matter of the district of Gusinje-Plava no progress has been made. Although nearly six weeks have elapsed since the Turkish authorities have been communicated with as regards the demarcation of the frontier of this district, nothing but evasive answers have been received. The Scutari authorities especially saying that as Gusinje-Plava is out of the Scutari district they know nothing about it.

No proposition for a compromise has, as yet, been put forward by either of the interested Powers, nor does there appear to be the smallest intention on the part of the Turks to take steps for forcibly handing over the district to the Montenegrins, as demanded by the last-named Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 258.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 17, 1879.

TURKISH Ambassador made a communication yesterday to M. de Giers, complaining of inaccuracies in the Austrian map, by which Montenegro Delimitation Commission is working, and proposing that, in order to avoid further mistakes, the Commissioners should be instructed to make a fresh survey for themselves.

Russian Government is not inclined to accede to this request, which would entail great delay.

No. 259.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June* 17, 1879.

I LEARN, on good authority, that the Russians have 7,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition in store at Slivno, which they intend to increase to 20,000,000, and to distribute among local gymnasts. Very large quantities have already been distributed in this place and elsewhere, and Consul at Bourgas has reported further importation of ammunition. The authority of the Porte having been reinstated in this province, the Russians have [?] no right to continue to arm the population.

No. 260.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL has informed me that First French Commissioner has [written ?] to represent to the French Ambassador at Constantinople the incapacity of General Vitalis, and the necessity of sending Torcy here to control and guide him.

Second French Commissioner has spoken to me about desirability of sending General Dickson likewise.

I am strongly of opinion that both should come as soon as possible, but not in a formal manner, in order to prevent Russia from claiming the right to send a military attaché likewise.

The Governor-General and Council are getting more and more frightened at possible consequences of General's lack of judgment and ability in organizing the force, and he is therefore a great source of weakness to the Provincial Government. The Russian General in command of troops remaining in this district has, by an arrangement with Vitalis, which was not authorized by Governor-General, received from General Stolipine orders to maintain a military police throughout district until its complete evacuation. Governor-General had violent altercation with Vitalis on this subject, but seeing the incapacity of the latter to maintain order himself has thought it best to submit to the arrangement.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 261.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 6.) *Belgrade, June* 18, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 14th from St. Petersburgh, I have to state that when Commission began demarcation of Bulgarian frontier, Russian Commissioner called upon Servian Commissioner to withdraw authorities from territory still occupied by Servia contrary to stipulations of Treaty of Berlin, but in virtue of written military Convention with Russian Commander-in-chief. He was informed that matter was one to be settled between the two Governments. Orders were sent, however, to Servian officials to be prepared to leave the moment Commission completed demarcation of Servian-Bulgarian frontier. Nevertheless, Russian Commissioner, in consequence of the popular demonstration in favour of Servia, caused Russian Bulgarian troops to be suddenly sent to occupy territory in question, although no opposition was to be apprehended. Servian Government deny having cut down forest or committed acts detrimental to Bulgaria; having merely levied taxes to defray administration.

Russian Governor-General, in reply to Servian protest against the arrest of Préfet of Tra states, that he had not been imprisoned, but that formal charges against him will be brought before Servian Government.

No. 262.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(Consular.) *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

IN my telegram of yesterday respecting repatriation of Turks, the phrase "place of origin" refers to place from which refugee[s] return. Turkish Commissioner says number of Turkish refugees from this province now at Adrianople is about 26,000, but total number from 150,000 to 180,000.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 263.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(Consular.) *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.
(Telegraphic.)

ON motion of Governor-General, Council of State have appointed Commission for preparation and execution of scheme for repatriation of Turkish refugees, estimated at 40,000, on following bases:—

1. Refugees have right to return and take possession of their property as well as of revenues from latter, which are deposited in provincial chests.

2. Police will give aid and protection.
3. Governor of Adrianople will prepare lists of refugees in [?] villages who desire to return.
4. Both Governments will arrange for exclusion of men dangerous to public tranquillity.
5. Authorities of place of origin must furnish refugees means of existence for one month.
6. The houses of the Mussulman refugees now occupied by Christian refugees to be restored to proprietors, and measures to be taken for their evacuation.

Commission consists of two Bulgarians, two Turks, and one Greek, with two Bulgarian and one Turkish Secretary.

Refugees are to send two Delegates, who will have deliberative voice.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 318.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1879.

COUNT MÜNSTER spoke to me yesterday with respect to the recognition of Roumania. He said that he understood that the Italian Government was exceedingly anxious to recognize, and had, in fact, taken steps in that direction, and that the French Government also wished to move. He said that his own Government naturally desired to bring the question to a conclusion, as any difference of political views with Prince Charles of Hohenzollern was naturally disagreeable to the Emperor.

The German Government were, however, he said, fully convinced that it was necessary to obtain some definite guarantee of the intentions of the Roumanian Government with respect to religious liberty.

I said that I entirely concurred with him in the view that, after all that had been done, the Governments could not recognize the independence of Roumania until some definite measure had been adopted, but I urged upon him the necessity of abstaining from any exacting demands, and of defining at once the minimum with which the Western Governments would be content. I reminded him that Roumania had obtained recognition from her immediate neighbours, and might possibly, therefore, be indifferent to that of the Powers who were distant from her, and that, if the pressure exerted was too great, the Roumanian Government might dispense with recognition altogether. I urged him to submit to his Government a proposal that he should inform the Roumanian Government, in strict confidence, that we should be satisfied with a measure conferring the rights of citizenship upon all native-born Roumanian Jews, leaving on one side altogether the question of the measures to be adopted in the case of those Jews who had immigrated from foreign soil. This, I pointed out to him, would be a substantial fulfilment of the Article of the Treaty of Berlin, while at the same time it would not arouse the apprehensions of the Roumanian Government upon the point on which they were most sensitive, namely, the danger of a great Jewish migration from Poland and Russia into Roumania.

His Excellency promised to convey my message to his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, June* 18, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the despatch from his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha, of which you were good enough to leave a copy with me on the 14th instant, on the subject of certain differences which have arisen in the Commission for the demarcation of the frontier of Montenegro. Those differences are stated to have been caused by errors which have been discovered in the Austrian staff map, and with a view to their settlement it is proposed by the Sublime Porte that the Commission should proceed to make a general reconnaissance and a

regular topographical survey of the ground, which the Powers should take as a bas for the discussion of the questions at issue.

It would be impossible for me, without previous communication with Her Majesty's Commissioner, to enter into a discussion of the several points mentioned in the Memorandum annexed to Carathéodory Pasha's despatch, or to express an opinion on the amount of examination that is requisite for the settlement of the questions referred to in it.

I may, however, at once state in reply to your Excellency's communication, that Her Majesty's Government will have no objection to the British Commissioner taking part in such examination and survey of the ground as the Commission may find to be necessary for the proper determination of the frontier line, although in their opinion the principal work of any general survey should be undertaken by the Powers more directly interested.

Your Excellency is probably aware that at the present moment the operations of the Commission have been suspended in consequence of the refusal of the Ottoman military authorities to allow them to visit certain spots which they considered it indispensable to include in their examination. I need not point out to your Excellency that unless measures are taken by the Sublime Porte to prevent any such obstruction to the proceedings of the Commission, and to ensure their receiving all proper facilities at the hands of the Turkish authorities, it will be impossible in any degree whatsoever to put into execution the present proposal of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 266.

Lord Tenterden to Baron de Worms.

Foreign Office, June 18, 1879.

Sir,

YOU are probably aware that two gentlemen named Veneziani have been sent to Turkey as agents of the Alliance Israélite to effect the repatriation of the Jewish refugees.

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that a despatch has been received from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, stating that he had seen these gentlemen and had heard from them that their mission had been attended with considerable difficulties. At Kyzanlik the inhabitants had not objected to the return of the refugees, but both at Eski-Zaghra and Carlovo there appears to be a very excited feeling against them.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff has spoken both to one of the Turkish authorities and also to the Bulgarian Exarch on the subject, and was informed by them that they had done and were doing what they could to facilitate MM. Veneziani's mission. They added, however, that, whether truly or untruly, allegations had been made during the war, against the Jews, of complicity with the Turks, and that this, rather than any religious fanaticism, had created the feeling against them. It was their opinion that, if matters were not precipitated, this feeling would in time be allayed.

Lord Salisbury directs me to communicate the above to you confidentially, as it may be of use in the consideration of any further proceedings on the part of the Alliance Israélite.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 267.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 255.)

Philippopolis, June 3, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the "comptes-rendus" for the sittings held by the Commission on the 28th April and 29th and 31st May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 267.

Compte-rendu de la Séance No. 65, tenue le $\frac{19}{28}$ Avril, 1879 (7 Djémazi-ul-Ewal, 1296), au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï.

Présidence de Son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir H. Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Sur la proposition de M. de Kallay, la Commission décide que les Protocoles seront remplacés désormais par des comptes-rendus sommaires. Ces comptes-rendus ne serait point imprimés.

Abro Effendi prend la parole en ces termes :—

"En réponse à la demande qui nous a été adressée à la dernière séance, nous avons l'honneur de déclarer à la Commission, au nom de la Sublime Porte, que M. Vitalis est nommé Commandant de la Gendarmerie et de la Milice de la Roumélie Orientale, et va être promu au grade de Général de Brigade de la Milice Rouméliote.

"Le Colonel Mahir Bey est nommé Chef de la Gendarmerie.

"Ces deux officiers auront à s'occuper de la formation de la milice et de la gendarmerie de la nouvelle province. Le Gouvernement Ottoman leur a transmis des ordres pour qu'ils lui présentent prochainement la liste des officiers servant actuellement en Roumélie Orientale qu'ils croiront utile de garder près d'eux ou qui voudraient rester sous leur commandement."

Une discussion s'étant engagée au sujet des mesures à prendre pour maintenir l'ordre en Roumélie après le départ de l'armée Russe, *le Baron de Ring*, après un débat animé, propose à ses collègues de voter la déclaration suivante :—

"La Commission Européenne, justement préoccupée de l'inconvénient de laisser la Roumélie Orientale sans administration régulière et sans force armée organisée au moment du départ des corps d'occupation Russes, émet le vœu que la Sublime Porte s'entende avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie à l'effet de régler le mode de remise des services civils ainsi que du commandement de la milice locale et de la gendarmerie par les autorités actuelles à celles qui seront chargées de les remplacer.

"Il ressort des débats qui ont eu lieu au sein de la Commission que celle-ci se reconnaît incompétente pour trancher les questions multiples et délicates que soulève ce problème; mais qu'elle se croit autorisée par l'esprit général de ses instructions à offrir aux mandataires des deux Gouvernements directement intéressés son concours officieux pour étudier les questions dont il s'agit et pour prendre en même temps les mesures financières que la situation comporte."

Tous les Commissaires acceptent la proposition de leur collègue de France, sauf M. de Braunschweig, qui s'abstient.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha déclare qu'il est convaincu que la Sublime Porte ne manquera pas de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires. Il informera du reste son Gouvernement de l'échange d'idées qui a eu lieu au sein de la Commission.

Sur la proposition de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, *le Président*, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de l'une des prochaines séances :—

La question des frais d'occupation réclamés par le Gouvernement Russe à la Roumélie Orientale.

La séance est levée à 4 heures et demie.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SÉLIM.
CURIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 267.

Compte-rendu de la Séance No. 67 (extraordinaire), tenue le $\frac{13}{25}$ Mai, 1879 (9 Djémazi-ul-Akhir, 1296), à la Maison de son Excellence Assim Pacha, à Philippopoli.

Présidence de son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 10 heures du soir.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha dit qu'il a cru devoir convoquer d'urgence la Commission pour la consulter sur une question qui lui a été posée au nom de Son Excellence Aleko Pacha par Gavril Effendi, Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur. Il s'agit de la cérémonie qui doit avoir lieu le $\frac{14}{26}$ Mai, à l'occasion de la lecture publique du Firman Impérial promulguant le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale. Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général est d'avis qu'il serait convenable de hisser le pavillon Ottoman sur le konak pendant cette cérémonie, mais il a des raisons de croire que cette formalité provoquera des manifestations d'un caractère fâcheux et peut-être même des désordres. C'est pour cela qu'avant de prendre une résolution, son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a désiré consulter la Commission Européenne.

Avant de passer à l'examen de la question ainsi posée au nom du Gouverneur-Général par son Excellence Assim Pacha, la Commission décide qu'en vertu d'un accord antérieur, elle revient au système de l'alternat pour la présidence, dont elle s'était départie en faveur du Premier Commissaire de la Sublime Porte, pendant son séjour à Constantinople.

La présidence est dévolue en conséquence à M. de Kallay.

Présidence de M. de Kallay.

Sur la demande d'un membre la Commission décide en outre que par application de sa résolution du $\frac{21 \text{ Novembre}}{3 \text{ Décembre}}$, 1878, la question qui lui est soumise pourra être tranchée par un vote à la majorité des voix.

M. de Kallay prie ses Collègues de faire connaître leur avis sur la réponse à faire à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général.

Après un échange d'idées auquel prennent part tous les membres présents, la Commission charge son Président de répondre verbalement à Son Excellence Aleko Pacha que, comme pour le fait de hisser ou de ne pas hisser le pavillon Ottoman pendant la lecture du Firman Impérial, il n'y a qu'une simple question de forme sans influence sur l'introduction du Statut Organique, et ne pourrait dépendre que de l'initiative du Gouverneur-Général ; elle estime que ce dernier est seul compétent pour décider à quel point l'une ou l'autre de ces alternatives est opportune dans le moment actuel.

La séance est levée à 11 heures et demie du soir.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KÁLLAY.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 267.

Compte-rendu de la Séance No. 68, tenue le $\frac{14}{26}$ Mai, 1879 (11 Djémazi-ul-Evel, 1296), à la Direction Générale des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale à Philippopoli.

Présidence de M. DE KALLAY.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Les comptes-rendus des séances Nos. 66 et 67, lus par M. Rozet, sont adoptés.

La Commission décide que M. Chevalier Curiel remplira provisoirement les fonctions de Secrétaire adjoint de la Commission.

L'ordre du jour appelle les questions posées par Sir H. Drummond Wolff à la séance No. 66.

Le Président juge utile de les retire :—

"Question No. 1. Le Gouverneur-Général, s'il juge nécessaire d'appeler les troupes Turques dans la province pour y maintenir l'ordre ou pour affermir l'autorité du Sultan, doit-il au préalable prendre l'avis de la Commission.

"Question No. 2. La Commission doit-elle émettre un avis toutes les fois qu'elle est consultée par le Gouverneur-Général ?

"Question No. 3. La Commission doit-elle décider de toutes les questions à la majorité ou à l'unanimité des voix."

Après un court échange d'idées, la Commission décide de se prononcer tout d'abord sur la troisième question.

Le President met aux voix la troisième question.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il doit être bien entendu qu'en se prononçant séparément sur chacune des trois questions, la Commission ne décide qu'à titre provisoire et qu'elle se réserve de revenir sur ces trois points par un vote d'ensemble.

La Commission décide que la majorité absolue (de quatre voix), fera désormais loi dans toutes les questions relatives à l'introduction et au fonctionnement du Statut Organique.

Une discussion s'étant élevée parmi les Commissaires au sujet de savoir si les avis de la Commission devront être obligatoires pour le Gouverneur-Général, *le Baron de Ring* soumet à l'agrément de ses collègues la formule suivante :—

"La Commission Européenne ayant mission de veiller à l'introduction du Statut Organique sur toutes les questions y relatives, le Gouverneur-Général est tenu de lui demander son avis au préalable. Cet avis, arrêté à la majorité absolue de voix, est obligatoire pour le Gouverneur-Général.

"Quant aux nominations du personnel administratif, elles doivent se faire sous la responsabilité exclusive du Gouverneur-Général."

Après un débat animé, les Commissaires constatent que, vu la divergence de leurs points de vue, une entente paraît impossible.

Le Baron de Ring retire sa formule. Il dit que, jusqu'à ce que l'entente s'établisse entre les Gouvernements sur ce problème fondamental que la Commission elle-même ne peut résoudre, la Réunion ne saurait s'occuper utilement de matières qui se rattachent à l'introduction du Statut. Le Commissaire de France ajoute que, pour sa part, il ne se croirait pas autorisé à participer à une délibération officielle ayant une connexité quelconque avec l'introduction du Statut.

Le Prince Tzeretelew partage l'avis du Commissaire de France; il constate que la déclaration du Baron de Ring s'accorde entièrement avec ses propres instructions.

M. de Kallay est prêt à aborder la discussion des matières dont il est question.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique et les *Délégués Ottomans* partagent l'avis de leur collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Il est ensuite convenu que tous les Commissaires demanderont des instructions télégraphiques à leurs Gouvernements.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe au 2 Juin la prochaine séance, qui sera consacrée à l'examen de questions financières.

La séance est levée à 6 heures du soir.

(Signé) KALLAY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
CURIEL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 267.

Compte-rendu de la Séance No. 69, tenue le $\frac{21 \text{ Mai}}{2 \text{ Juin}}$ 1879 (14 *Djemazi-ul-Akhir*, 1296) *à la Direction Générale des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. DE KALLAY.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche Hongrie—
M. de Kállay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir H. Drummond Wolff,
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le compte-rendu de la séance No. 68, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff annonce à la Commission que Mr. Michell, Compagnon de l'Ordre du Bain, Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique en Roumélie Orientale, a été nommé Commissaire Adjoint de Grande Bretagne en remplacement de Lord Donoughmore, obligé de rentrer en Angleterre. Mr. Michell, en cas d'absence de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, remplira les fonctions de Commissaire.

Le Président exprime, au nom de tous ses collègues, la satisfaction avec laquelle la Commission apprend la nomination de Mr. Michell.

Mr. Michell remercie ses nouveaux collègues de leur accueil bienveillant, et dit qu'il s'efforcera de concourir au maintien des relations agréables et sympathiques qui n'ont cessé d'exister entre les membres de la Commission.

L'ordre du jour appelle l'examen des questions financières.

Le Chevalier Vernoni formule la motion suivante : —

"La Commission, ayant achevé le travail d'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, remet entre les mains de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général l'Administration des Finances, dont elle était chargée en vertu de l'Article IX du Traité de Berlin."

A la suite d'une longue discussion à laquelle prennent part tous les Commissaires, la motion de M. Vernoni, rédigée comme suit, est adoptée :—

"La Commission ayant pu constater qu'il est impossible de bien faire marcher de concert dans une même province deux Administrations relevant de deux pouvoirs indépendants,

"Et prenant en considération l'Article 121 du Statut Organique, dont le dernier alinéa donne au Gouverneur-Général le droit de fixer provisoirement les traitements de tous les fonctionnaires, par conséquent de modifier le Chapitre des dépenses, d'où il résulte que, n'ayant de pouvoir que sur les recettes, elle ne saurait être responsable de l'équilibre du budget,

"Estime qu'en remettant entièrement l'Administration des Finances au Gouverneur-Général, elle contribue à consolider la nouvelle organisation et à faciliter son fonctionnement.

"Elle décide pour cette raison que l'Administration des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale passe au Gouverneur-Général, et elle engage son Président à s'entendre avec son Excellence Aleko Pacha, à l'effet de remettre à celui-ci la dite Administration, dont il reste chargé sous sa responsabilité."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il obéit à des raisons d'ordre purement pratique en votant cette motion acceptée par tous ses collègues, mais qu'il ne la considère pas comme découlant directement du mandat de la Commission tel qu'il a été défini par le Traité de Berlin.

La Commission décide ensuite que, vu la motion qu'elle vient d'adopter, le Comité des Finances cessera d'exister au moment de la remise effective de l'administration financière au nouveau Gouverneur-Général.

Le Président exprime au nom de la Commission ses remerciements les plus vifs aux membres du Comité des Finances pour l'activité et la vigilance dont ils ont fait preuve en sauvegardant les intérêts qui leur étaient confiés.

La Commission vote en même temps, sur la proposition d'Abro Effendi, des remerciements à M. Curiel, qui a rempli avec un zèle infatigable les fonctions de Secrétaire du Comité des Finances.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, au nom de Lord Donoughmore, absent, remercie aussi M. Curiel.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff annonce qu'il communiquera, à la prochaine séance, les vues de son Gouvernement relativement aux frais d'occupation dus par la province au Gouvernement Russe.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 3 Juin, la question des frais d'occupation dus au Gouvernement Russe.

La séance est levée à 6 heures trois quarts.

(Signé) KÁLLAY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZEF.
ISVOLSKY.
CURIEL.

No. 268.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 256.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, June* 4, 1879.

YESTERDAY, at the sitting of the Commission, after M. de Kallay had informed us of the steps he had taken to hand over the finance to Aleko Pasha, I, in pursuance of a notice, brought on the question of the expenses of occupation.

With respect to the amount asked for, I stated my opinion that it was exaggerated. The Treaty laid down that the army of occupation, for both Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, was to consist of 50,000 men. The province was the smaller of the two territories, and yet the troops charged on its revenues were nearly 27,000.

Without entering into details, I considered that the distribution of the troops should be calculated on the respective extent, wealth, or population of the two countries.

Taking this roughly, I should have established three-fifths for Bulgaria as to two-fifths for Eastern Roumelia.

Without reverting to the details of former discussions, I reminded the Committee that, during three months of the nine fixed for the occupation, the Russian authorities had administered the finances, and had absolutely refused to come to a liquidation with us or to render us an account.

During that period, therefore, we were unable to say whether or not it would have been possible to provide out of current revenue for any part of this extraordinary expenditure.

Even after the direction of the finances had passed over to the Commission, the

Administration could not be considered in a normal state, and great irregularities had taken place out of circumstances beyond our control, but which had rendered it impossible for us to make any provision for the claim in question.

In fact the Russian Commissioners had more than once declared that the different sums which had so often formed the topic of discussion were merely questions of account between the Russian authorities and the province, and that deficiencies might be deducted from the sums charged for occupation.

Under the most favourable circumstances, however, there remained a considerable balance of claim on the part of Russia against the province. The amount of the claim must be examined by the Provincial Assembly, which alone was competent to impose the additional taxation necessary to meet it.

This done, the result of the examination must be the subject of negotiation between the Porte on behalf of the province, the Russian Government, and, if necessary, the other Signatory Powers.

I therefore made the declaration, of which I inclose a copy, and which was adopted by the Austrian, French, Italian, and Turkish Commissioners. The German Commissioner was silent, and Prince Tzeretelew declared his belief that the Commission was not competent to enter on the discussion.

My object in making this declaration was twofold. First, that the Bulgarians, who are already disgusted with the financial malversations of the Russians, should by means of the Assembly be seized with the exhorbitant demand which Russia must now either enforce or relinquish. Second, that the province must turn to the Sultan to obtain relief from so heavy a burden.

I must point out to your Lordship that the German Commissioner expressed neither assent nor dissent to my declaration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 268.

Declaration respecting Costs of Occupation.

LA Commission ayant renoncé à l'administration financière, je déclare qu'à cause de l'état anormal de cette Administration depuis le 3 Août, date de la ratification du Traité de Berlin, elle n'a pu trouver dans les ressources de la province le moyen de satisfaire aux frais d'occupation, lesquels, selon le Traité de Berlin, doivent grever les revenus provinciaux.

Je suis d'avis que cette question doit être examiné par l'Assemblée Provinciale, laquelle a seule le pouvoir d'imposer les contributions additionnelles nécessaires pour le paiement des dits frais, et le résultat de cet examen devra être l'objet d'une négociation entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, ainsi que les autres Gouvernements Signataires du Traité.

No. 269.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 259.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, June* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the compte-rendu of the seventieth sitting of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 269.

Compte-rendu de la Séance No. 70.—Le $\frac{22 \text{ Mai}}{3 \text{ Juin}}$, 1879 (14 *Djemazi-ul-akkir*, 1296), *à la Direction Générale des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. DE KALLAY.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kállay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring;
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir H. Drummond Wolff,
M. Michell.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzereteiew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures de l'après-midi.

Le compte-rendu de la séance No. 69, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

M. de Kallay annonce que, conformément à la décision prise par la Commission dans la dernière séance, il s'est mis en rapport avec son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, pour déterminer l'époque et le mode de la transmission de l'Administration Financière. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie a adressé à Aleko Pacha la lettre suivante :—

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{22 \text{ Mai}}{3 \text{ Juin}}$, 1879.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général,

"Conformément à la résolution jointe en copie, j'ai l'honneur de déclarer à votre Excellence que la Commission est prête à vous remettre à partir d'aujourd'hui, sous votre responsabilité personnelle, l'Administration des Finances de la province.

"La remise des Caisses ne pourra être considérée comme définitive qu'après que tous les comptes auront été soumis à la Commission et approuvés par elle.

"Par conséquent ce n'est qu'à cette époque que la Direction des Finances sera déliée de ses obligations devant la Commission. Mais à partir d'aujourd'hui toutes les dépenses ne sauraient se faire que sur des ordres émanant de votre Excellence. La Commission se réserve seulement les dépenses nécessitées par la liquidation de sa gestion financière.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Président Temporaire de la Commission Européenne,
(Signé) "KALLAY."

A cette lettre Aleko Pacha a répondu en ces termes :—

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{22 \text{ Mai}}{3 \text{ Juin}}$, 1879.

"M. le Président,

"J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir votre lettre de ce jour. Conformément à son contenu, je prends entre mes mains et sous ma responsabilité l'Administration Financière de la province à partir de ce jour.

"Il est bien entendu que la remise des Caisses ne pourra être considérée comme définitive qu'après que la Commission Européenne m'aura remis l'état détaillé de tous les comptes arrêtés à ce jour, et de tous les soldes existants en Caisse.

"A partir d'aujourd'hui toutes les dépenses se feront sur mes ordres. Seules les dépenses nécessitées par la liquidation de la gestion financière de la Commission lui sont réservées.

"Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) "ALEX. VOGORIDES."

"Après l'échange de cette correspondance," dit M. de Kallay, "l'Administration Financière doit être considérée comme étant passé entre les mains du nouveau Gouverneur-Général. Tous les fonctionnaires relevant de la Direction des Finances de la province recevront simultanément, et par le télégraphe, notification de ce fait de la part de M. Schmidt et du Gouverneur-Général."

Pour ce qui est de la remise matérielle des fonds, le Président fait connaître à la Commission qu'il s'est déjà entendu avec son Excellence Aleko Pacha, pour que les espèces se trouvant dans chacune des Caisses soient comptées en présence de personnes de confiance désignées par le Gouverneur-Général, et pour que les dites espèces soient livrées aux jour et heure fixés par son Excellence contre reçus constatant que les Caisses ont été trouvées en ordre, et le compte des espèces conforme aux écritures. Ces reçus partiels devraient être ensuite annexés aux reçu collectif à délivrer par le Gouverneur-Général à l'ancienne Administration Financière. Pour la remise de la Caisse Centrale, M. de Kallay propose de faire assister le Directeur-Général par le Comité des Finances; il voudrait aussi que les fonctionnaires désignés pour cette opération par le Gouverneur-Général ne fussent pas d'un rang inférieur à celui de M. Schmidt.

La Commission décide que la remise des Caisses de son Administration Financière aura lieu selon le plan proposé par le Président.

La Commission, sur la proposition de M. de Coutouly, décide ensuite de prier M. Schmidt de lui présenter, soit au moment de la remise des Caisses, soit quelques jours plus tard, un exposé complet de la situation financière de la province au 3 Juin, 1879.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur les frais d'occupation dus par la province au Gouvernement Russe.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff rappelle à la Commission que l'examen de cette question a été longtemps différé :—

"Au moment de renoncer à l'Administration Financière il est nécessaire," dit le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, "que la Commission constate les raisons pour lesquelles elle n'a pas pu régler cette dette et exprimer son avis sur la façon dont la somme due doit être payée. Plusieurs questions," ajoute Sir H. Drummond Wolff, "se rattachent au paiement des frais d'occupation; ainsi il faudrait savoir quel est le nombre de troupes dont l'entretien doit incomber à la Roumélie Orientale; car les frais résultant de l'entretien des 50,000 hommes prévus par le Traité de Berlin doivent être répartis entre la Principauté de Bulgarie et la province, soit proportionnellement à l'étendue géographique de ces deux territoires, soit proportionnellement au nombre de leurs habitants ou à leurs ressources budgétaires, soit en tenant simultanément compte de ces trois éléments d'appréciation. Certaines questions de comptabilité pourraient surgir encore d'ici au réglement définitif des comptes. Toutes ces questions doivent être examinées par l'Assemblée Provinciale et réglées par l'entremise de la Sublime Porte, qui entrera à ce sujet en négociations avec le Gouvernement Russe."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff termine en formulant la déclaration suivante :—

"La Commission ayant renoncé à l'Administration Financière, je déclare qu'à cause de l'état anormal de cette Administration depuis le 3 Août, date de la ratification du Traité de Berlin, elle n'a pu trouver dans les ressources de la province le moyen de satisfaire aux frais d'occupation, lesquels, selon le Traité de Berlin, doivent grever les revenus provinciaux; je suis d'avis que cette question doit être examinée par l'Assemblée Provinciale, laquelle a seule le pouvoir d'imposer les contributions additionnelles nécessaires pour le paiement des dits frais, et le résultat de cet examen devra être l'objet d'une négociation entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, ainsi que les autres Gouvernements signataires du dit Traité."

Le Commissaire de France adhère à la déclaration de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, qu'il considère comme entièrement fondée tant en fait qu'en droit.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, et de Turquie adhèrent également à la déclaration de Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Le Prince Tzereteiew, sans faire d'objections contre la teneur de la déclaration de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, se croit incompétent pour s'occuper de la question des frais

d'occupation, surtout depuis que la Commission s'est dessaisie de l'Administration des Finances.

La séance est levée à 6 heures trois quarts.

(Signé) KALLAY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
MICHELL.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
CURIEL.

No. 270.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 260.)

Philippopolis, June 7, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 256 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of the "Philippoupolis" containing an article on the expenses of the occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of June 7, 1879.

[See Inclosure 18 in No. 293.]

No. 271.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 261. Confidential.)

Philippopolis, June 8, 1879.

My Lord,

DURING the last two days I have had interviews with several of the Chiefs of religious communities.

The Grand Rabbi called on me to express his thanks for what had been done for his nation, adding, however, that they had as yet not been quite able to understand all that had been done for them, as the Statute had not been translated into Spanish.

I told him that there were three official languages into which the Statute had been or would be translated. It was impossible to multiply these translations. The Jewish community as well as the Armenian were small, and, of course, could not be placed on the same footing in this respect as the three principal nationalities. But if he would study the Statute he would find that it entirely carried out the Treaty of Berlin in giving to the Jews of the province the fullest civil rights and privileges. He himself was of right a member of the Assembly. Those of his creed were entitled to participate in all the elective, representative, and administrative institutions established for the province in which such a thing as religious inequality or disability no longer existed.

He asked me how the Jews were to enforce their privileges. I answered that in this respect they must take their chance with the other communities. They had votes for the election of members to the Assembly, and, as in other countries, they

should make use of this right to secure the election of candidates in whom they had confidence. I could not advise them on matters of detail, but when the time for elections came they must concert with each other as to the course they should pursue in deciding between the merits of the respective candidates. I gave the Grand Rabbi a copy of the Statute, which he said would be sent to Vienna to be translated, and he expressed his deep gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for the efforts made on behalf of his coreligionists.

I called yesterday on the Greek Archbishop, who complained of the manner in which the Statute was being carried out. Aleko Pasha was entirely Bulgarian. No places had been given to Greeks, and a protest had been entered that day by the Greek community against the unjust distribution of power.

I told his Eminence that I much regretted to hear that the Greeks were overlooked, but I begged him not to place himself in opposition to the Governor-General. The latter had a very difficult task to perform, and could not help yielding in many things to the majority; none could please all parties, but I hoped that injustices of this kind would in time be remedied. The Greeks were a very small minority, but they had wealth and intelligence, and when the time came for the elections they might, by combined action, make terms in a legitimate manner with the Executive power for a recognition of their claims.

From the Greek Metropolitan I went to see the Exarch, with whom I had a long conversation.

His Beatitude declared he was very well satisfied with the course of events. Everything was tranquil. The people were satisfied with the Organic Statute; they were rapidly settling into their ordinary pursuits, and he now felt himself entitled to take a holiday, which he much wanted, and he was to start to-day for some baths. He would later go to Constantinople, to urge the appointment of Bishops in Macedonia.

He said the constitution of the Government was, in his opinion, very good, with the exception of M. Iskroff, or Kissiakoff. He did not think this appointment could hold good. He had been imposed by the Russians as a sop to the advanced party, but this latter were more indignant at it than any others.

They were angry with M. Kissiakoff for making use of his influence with them to obtain a place for which he had no qualification or experience. The country was determined to have specialists. For this all had joined in recommending M. Schmidt.

Gabril Effendi was a moderate man of long official experience. M. Groueff had made a special study of public instruction, having been a Professor, and M. Vulkovich, though brought up as a medical man, was known to have considerable acquaintance with public works. The people felt that for the Department of Justice they should have a practised lawyer, and M. Kissiakoff he considered as already put aside.

I then mentioned the case of the Greeks and Turks, and expressed a hope that his Beatitude would support their just claims under the Statute. He answered me much in the language I had used to the Greek Archbishop. He had done, and was doing, all in his power in favour of these nationalities, but Aleko Pasha was in a trying position, and was obliged more or less to conciliate the majority.

It was only human nature for the latter to provide in the first instance for their own interests, but he was convinced that matters would later settle into shape, and that it was the desire of the Bulgarians, who were a practical people, to live on good terms with all.

His Beatitude told me that he had renounced all jurisdiction over Bulgaria, and that he hoped Her Majesty's Government would assist him in his wishes as to the Macedonian Bishops.

With good taste and judgment, I found the Exarch always refer to the Governor-General and his Secretary as Aleko Pasha and Gabril Effendi, instead of mentioning their Bulgarian names, as is usual with the Bulgarians.

I later called on the Bulgarian Metropolitan Panaretos. He expressed himself very much pleased with the Organic Statute and the way it was working.

He had great confidence both in the Governor-General and his Secretary, who were, in his opinion, prudent men.

He also declared himself most grateful to Her Majesty's Government for the interest taken in the Bulgarians, which he hoped would always last. I replied that Her Majesty's Government and the British nation at large had always taken a deep interest in their welfare and continue to do so. Without making a special complaint, I told his Eminence that now was the time for the Bulgarians to conciliate general sympathy

by ceasing to allow any ill-usage of the Turks. It was by treating persons of all beliefs on the same footing and by letting bygones be bygones that they could show the superiority of the Christian religion over all others. I had heard of instances of the Turks having been very badly used by Bulgarians, and I hoped his Eminence would exert himself to put an end to such proceedings. His Eminence replied that such was his constant anxiety. As a Christian, an Archbishop, and a teacher of the Gospel it was his duty to preach peace to all, and to consider all men, whatever their religion, as brothers. He begged me to believe that he was exerting himself in this direction. All cause of complaint by the Bulgarians had been removed, and he was convinced that the resentment still existing would disappear when the province was fully organized on the new system.

His Eminence pressed me very strongly to urge on the promised reforms under Article XXIII. The Porte made promises, but unless stimulated by the Powers did not carry them out. He had seen in the papers that your Lordship had pressed these reforms on the Porte, but a long time had elapsed and nothing had been done.

I explained to his Eminence my firm belief that the Porte was sincere in its intentions to carry out these reforms. It had waited for the completion of our Statute as a basis. This instrument was now being adapted by the Legal Advisers of the Porte to the exigencies of the different districts.

It would then be revised by local Commissions for such amendments as were considered necessary, and finally submitted to the European Commission.

His Eminence took leave of me in the warmest manner, repeating expressions of gratitude and good-will towards the British nation, which I have heard from all the Bulgarians I have met since my return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 272.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 262.) *Constantinople, June 12, 1879.*

My Lord,

ON taking leave of Aleko Pasha he begged me to explain to Sir Henry Layard, as well as to the Ministers of the Sultan, the great difficulties which surround him. The Russians still remaining continue to excite the Bulgarians against the Turks, and his police force is quite inadequate. He complains loudly of General Vitalis, who does not seem to display much tact in his dealings with the Governor and his administrators.

Aleko Pasha begged to impress on the Porte the necessity of supporting him. He was devoted to the Sultan, and wished to carry out his policy. But, in the first instance, he was obliged to conciliate and lean upon the majority. The Porte should have confidence in him and assist him, not worry him by suspending appointments and other similar acts, which brought him into collision with the Bulgarians. As soon as the Russians were gone he could act much more independently.

At present he merely took the advice of his Privy Council, and refused to express his own opinion. He had not come merely to receive 3,000*l.* a-year, but to endeavour to do some good, and he could serve the Sultan efficiently if allowed to do so after his own fashion; otherwise he would resign.

MM. Christovich and Vulkovich, who called on me the same day, urged me to make representations in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 273.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 264.) *Constantinople, June 12, 1879.*

My Lord,

I THINK it right to express to your Lordship my very high sense of the great personal kindness shown to Lord Donoughmore and myself, and the gentlemen

associated with us, by the Commissioners of the other Powers and the gentlemen attached to them respectively.

During the whole of our labours, which have covered a space of many months, there has not been a single instance of personal dissension, and the greatest harmony has reigned privately among the Commission, notwithstanding often strong difference of opinion on public matters.

I must also specially refer under this head personally to Colonel Schepelew and Prince Tzeretelew, to whom I am most grateful for their invariable friendliness and courtesy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 274.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 265.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 12, 1879.*

AS the Organic Statute is now in operation, and I do not apprehend any difficulties that my continued stay at Philippopolis could prevent, I have availed myself of your Lordship's permission to return home.

I cannot relinquish the functions confided to me by Her Majesty's Government without expressing my high sense of the services of the gentlemen who were officially associated with me.

Mr. Cartwright has exhibited in a remarkable manner the qualities required for the public service. His intelligence, indefatigable industry, love of order, and ready assistance, have been at all times most valuable, and have often cleared away considerable difficulties.

Mr. Walpole, in addition to his duties as private secretary, has undertaken at my request several journeys, on which he has furnished Reports which have more than once elicited your Lordship's approval. He has also devoted a great part of his time to the organization and administration of a system for the distribution of the fund forwarded to Lord Donoughmore and myself from London. He is now preparing a Report on this subject, which I shall shortly forward to your Lordship. I should also add that, except for the journeys I have mentioned, Mr. Walpole has never left Philippopolis from the date of our arrival there in October till our departure.

I should also express my obligations to Mr. Simmons, our translator, for the assiduity of his work, and the assistance we have derived from his knowledge of languages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 275.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 266. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 12, 1879.*

I OMITTED in my despatch No. 262 of this day to add a statement made to me by Aleko Pasha at my last interview with his Excellency.

Speaking of the hoisting of the Turkish flag he said that the Exarch, the Metropolitan, and all the Bulgarian Notables had declared their intention of not attending the ceremony if this formality took place. He himself had been prepared in case of riots to leave the country with Gabril Effendi, in which case the Bulgarians would have elected a provisional Government, with a Bulgarian at the head.

He still keeps this step *in terrorem* over the Turkish Government and the Powers, and Madame Aleko Pasha, or, as the Bulgarian papers call her, the Princess Aspasia, and Madame Gabril Effendi, with her daughter, have left Philippopolis for Constantinople, I believe as a kind of demonstration.

In consequence of all this I last night explained to His Majesty the Sultan, as I had previously done to the Grand Vizier and to Caratheodory Pasha, that, for the present, nothing could be done but to temporize, however mortifying it may be to

pursue such a policy. While the Russians are still in occupation Aleko Pasha is more or less helpless. He has no troops to rely on, the Bulgarian militia cannot be trusted, and the gendarmerie is not yet formed. Later, when the Assembly meets, and the presence of Russian influence is removed, motives of economy will lead to the reduction of the militia. A gendarmerie will be formed for the maintenance of order, and pressure may then be brought on Aleko Pasha to nominate Greek and Turkish members to the Assembly, so as to provide a due representation of these two elements in the provincial institutions.

With respect to the confirmation of the members of the Council I find that Aleko Pasha has only submitted the names of the three Bulgarians, and not as yet that of M. Schmidt.

I strongly urged Caratheodory Pasha, if it were intended to disapprove the nomination of M. Iskroff or Kissiakoff not to do so on the ground of his connection with the secret societies, but on that of his not being a legal "specialist." By this means the Turkish Government would place itself as a defender of public interests, and M. Iskroff would not be able to attitudinize as a political martyr.

It is very difficult at present to find Turks who could be placed in the Government. The only man at Philippopolis of a sufficient social station is Hadji Ismail Bey, whose conduct on various occasions has not been commendable. It is owing to him that Hadji Shaban and Arif Aga were condemned by the Russians. He has frightened Turks from giving evidence against Russian soldiers who oppressed them, and for thirty-six years he has annually married a new wife repudiating the one of the year before.

Although with three Bulgarians in the Government the other elements seem overlooked, this is not practically the case. Gabril Effendi is nominated by the Porte, and so is Colonel Vitalis, while M. Schmidt represents a neutral influence leaning very greatly to the Turks.

I also told Caratheodory Pasha that I was strongly of opinion the Commission should be withdrawn.

Such is the view of all the Commission.

Hitherto we have not been able to agree on any form of procedure and Aleko Pasha, if asking the advice of the Commission, will practically only be taking individual opinions, and receive no practical support.

Caratheodory Pasha did not agree with me. He thinks the presence of the Commission useful, and prefers to dissolving it, continuing negotiations as to procedure even without the hope of a result. If such be the wish of the Porte, and the other Powers agree to it, I think the duties of the Commission had far better be delegated to the Consuls, as the presence of Commissioners without anything to do, especially since the return of M. Fournier, can only lead to political intrigue, and a contest for personal influence in the Councils of the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 276.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 468.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 7, 1879.*

THE statement that Greek soldiers had taken part in the recent engagement in Thessaly between the Turkish troops and Greek insurrectionary bands having been denied at Athens, the Porte directed the Ministry of War to make inquiries on the subject. Ghazi Osman Pasha, the Seraskier, maintains that this statement is true, and that arms, clothes, and other objects belonging to Greek regular troops were captured on the occasion, and have been brought to Constantinople.

I inclose a copy of a Memorandum addressed by his Excellency to the Porte to this effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 276.

Letter from the Seraskierate to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Traduction.) 10 *Djémazi-ul-Akhir*, 1296.

J'AI pris connaissance de la communication de votre Excellence.

Parmi les objets pris aux rebelles pendant l'action, qu'on a porté pour les faire voir et qui sont gardés au Seraskérat, tels que : armes, vêtements, casquettes, et clairons, se trouvent des preuves suffisantes qu'il se trouvait des soldats Grecs au milieu d'eux. Les mesures à prendre en cette occurrence dépendent entièrement de votre Excellence.

No. 277.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 470. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 9, 1879.*

HAIREDDIN PASHA told me this morning that the Sultan had sent orders to the Porte for the dispatch of additional troops to the Province of Kossovo, in the direction of Novi-Bazar. His Highness said that this measure was, in his opinion, not only entirely unnecessary, but that, if it were carried out, it would either prevent the reduction of the army which the financial condition of the country most urgently required, or it would so much diminish the number of troops in the neighbourhood of the capital and Adrianople that it would be impossible to provide for the occupation of Bourgas and other places on the Eastern Roumelian frontier when the Russians retired from them. His Highness expressed his conviction that Russian influence was being employed in the Palace to lead His Majesty to believe that danger was to be apprehended of an Austrian attack from the side of Novi-Bazar, in order to induce him to send troops in that direction, so that when the time came to take possession of Bourgas, and to occupy other important positions, the Porte would have no means at its disposal to do so. On these grounds, his Highness said, he was determined to do all in his power to persuade His Majesty to rescind his orders, and if he were unable to do so he should endeavour to prevent their being put into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 278.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 471. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 9, 1879.*

CARATHÉODORY PASHA spoke to me again to-day about the proceedings of Aleko Pasha. His Excellency said that the Porte had asked for explanations with respect to them, but, with the exception of two letters, one to himself and the other to the Grand Vizier, which he showed me, had failed to obtain any reply. In the letter addressed to Haireddin Pasha, the Governor-General maintained that as a majority of the population of Eastern Roumelia was unquestionably Bulgarian, he considered it right and necessary that the persons named to hold public functions should be Bulgarians, and he had accordingly filled up the appointments submitted to the approval of the Sultan with them. He did not deny that some of those he had named were persons connected with the revolutionary movement, and known for their Russian tendencies, but it was expedient, he said, to conciliate the extreme party. Caratheodory Pasha, however, contended that Aleko Pasha was bound to name some Mussulmans and Greeks to fill public places, in accordance with the 24th Article of the Organic Statute, which admits all natives of Eastern Roumelia, without distinction of race or creed, to employment, honours, and public functions. By excluding Mahommedans and Greeks from all public offices, Aleko Pasha had given another proof of his intention to endeavour to make Eastern Roumelia a purely Bulgarian province, in violation of the Treaty of Berlin and of the sovereign rights of the Sultan. His Majesty had no objection to the appointment of M. Schmidt as Financial

Director, but there were one or two other nominations which His Majesty could not approve, and he would insist that at least one Mussulman should be employed.

The other letter from Aleko Pasha was an answer to one from Carathéodory Pasha, requesting him to make arrangements for the return of a number of unfortunate Mahommedan refugees, who were in great misery, and were anxious to go to their villages to look after their fields and crops before the season was too far advanced. Aleko Pasha alleges that the time had not yet come to permit the return of these unhappy people, and declines to make any arrangement for it.

Carathéodory Pasha said that the Sultan was extremely irritated at the conduct of Aleko Pasha, but it was thought better that things should be allowed to remain as they were until the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia was completed. The Porte would then consider the measures which it might be necessary to take to compel Aleko to conform to the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin. He was, his Excellency said, a weak man, and was quite capable, if remonstrances and a disapproval of his conduct were addressed to him, to resign his post, a course which might lead to serious difficulties and complications whilst the Russians were still in the province.

I understand that the Sultan is much dissatisfied with Carathéodory Pasha for having recommended the acceptance of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, and his Excellency is no doubt desirous of showing that he strongly disapproves of his relative's proceedings, which have given so much offence to His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 279.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 474.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 9, 1879.*

PRINCE LABANOFF, on being applied to by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs for an explanation of the speech addressed by General Stolipine to the Eastern Roumelian militia on his departure from Philippopolis, in which he stated that the Czar was to be looked up to as the head of the whole Slav race, explicitly denied that General Stolipine had made any such speech, and requested that this denial should be officially published in the Turkish newspapers. This has accordingly been done, but no one appears to attach any belief to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 280.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 475.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 382 and 403 of the 7th and 15th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by two Turks named Ali Fehmi and Hafiz Hourchid, who style themselves the representatives of the Mussulman population of the Sandjak of Sophia, complaining of the appropriation of their property by the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 280.

Mussulmans of Sophia to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 3 Juin, 1879.*

NOUS Soussignés, fondés de pouvoir des habitants Musulmans du Sandjak de Sophia, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence que lors de l'invasion Russe la population Bulgare de notre sandjak, profitant de notre émigration, s'est emparé de nos biens qu'elle s'est partagés entr'elle.

Les Bulgares de notre sandjak, non contents de s'être partagé nos récoltes, nos bestiaux et nos effets, ils ont démoli nos maisons et nos chaumières, et se sont emparé de nos champs et nos femmes, nous laissant dans la misère la plus complète.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence nous protestons contre les agissements des Bulgares, et nous nous réservons le droit de réclamer auprès qui de droit tous dommages, frais, et intérêts.

Une copie de ce document a été remise à leurs Excellences MM. le Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Nous prions votre Excellence de vouloir bien communiquer la présente protestation à qui de droit, et d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) ALI FEHMI.
HAFIZ HOURCHID.

No. 281.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 476.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by Monseigneur Nerses, the Patriarch of the Armenians (who, however, styles himself "Patriarche Démissionnaire"), with reference to the condition of his community in Asia Minor and Kurdistan. It was handed to me by Monseigneur Khoren, Archbishop of Beshiktash, who entered at great length into the grievances of the Armenians, and insisted upon the necessity of at once forming an autonomous Armenian province, under an Armenian Governor-General, with an Organic Statute similar to that framed by the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia. It appears that Archbishop Khoren handed a Memorandum on the same subject to Sir H. Drummond Wolff, accompanying it by a map of the proposed new Armenian province, which were transmitted to your Lordship.

I acknowledged Monseigneur Nerses' letter, and informed him, in reply, that I would forward a copy of it to your Lordship, and that no efforts were being omitted on my part to obtain from the Porte the fulfilment of the engagements into which it had entered with Her Majesty's Government and the European Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin, for the protection and better government of the Armenians, as well as of all other subjects of the Sultan in Asiatic Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 281.

Monsigneur Nerses to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le 1^{o}/13 Mai, 1879.*

PLUS d'une fois depuis la conclusion du Traité de Berlin je me suis permis de signaler à l'attention de votre Excellence, en sa qualité de Représentant d'une des Grandes Puissances Signataires de ce Traité, soit de nouveaux faits et actes réclamant une prompte réparation, soit surtout la situation générale des Arméniens dans l'Empire. Le Gouvernement Impérial qui, dans sa déférence pour l'Europe, et dans sa loyauté, a exécuté jusqu'ici les parties du Traité qui pourraient être considérées comme vraiment douloureuses pour lui, vient enfin de mettre à l'ordre du jour l'application de l'Article LXI, en dirigeant des Commissions sur divers points des provinces habitées par les Arméniens.

Votre Excellence connaît déjà la manière dont ces Commissions sont composées, et les instructions dont elles ont été munies ne doivent pas non plus être ignorées d'elle. Il est impossible de prévoir dès à présent les résultats auxquels aboutiront ces diverses Commissions, ni même dire d'avance si ces résultats seront identiques ou non. Ce qui pourtant ne doit faire l'objet d'aucun doute, c'est qu'il serait diamétralement opposé aux véritables intérêts de ce pays et au but que se sont proposé les Grandes Puissances, d'examiner superficiellement la situation, et d'éviter encore une fois des demi-mesures.

Il ne sera donc pas inutile, Excellence, et il n'appartient peut-être plus qu'à tout autre, de signaler sans réticences les véritables causes des souffrances des Arméniens, la connaissance de ces causes devant conduire à l'adoption des vrais moyens de l'amélio-

ration du sort des Arméniens, hautement demandée et solennellement stipulée par les Grandes Puissances.

Je n'hésite pas, Excellence, à placer en première ligne parmi ces causes les fonctionnaires publics. On est généralement convenu aujourd'hui à dire que les fonctionnaires Ottomans sont mauvais, et le Gouvernement Impérial lui-même l'a déclaré dans plus d'une occasion. Je ne rechercherai pas le vice capital de ces fonctionnaires au point de vue de l'administration en général, mais au point de vue Arménien; ce qui constitue un grave inconvénient, c'est qu'ils sont tous Musulmans, et que s'il leur arrive souvent d'oublier leurs devoirs comme fonctionnaires, il ne leur arrive presque jamais d'oublier qu'ils ont des devoirs à remplir comme Musulmans dans tout ce qui concerne les relations de leurs coreligionnaires avec les Arméniens. Il en résulte que non-seulement les Arméniens sont tenus constamment dans une situation d'infériorité et de dépendance vis-à-vis des Musulmans, mais qu'ils sont encore dépossédés et sacrifiés tous les jours. Ainsi, ce n'est pas une administraton laïque qui est établie dans le pays, mais une administration religieuse. Il en est de même de la justice. D'abord, dans plusieurs cas, et au gré de la partie adverse, l'Arménien qui a un procès est renvoyé devant les Tribunaux religieux Musulmans. On ne croirait peut-être plus à une telle anomalie, mais elle existe et triomphe même des dispositions explicites du Firman du 13 Zilcadi, 1292. Quant aux Tribunaux laïques et mixtes, ils existent aussi, mais ils sont présidés par des Musulmans revêtus du caractère religieux, et ils jugent d'après la loi religieuse Musulmane. La loi civile est encore le Chériat. On a pris tout simplement le soin de le traduire de l'Arabe en Turc, et de lui donner la dénomination "Médjellé."

La première et la plus urgente réforme serait donc de séculariser l'Administration et la Justice, en nommant, ce qui serait assez naturel, des fonctionnaires Arméniens en Arménie; en promulguant un Code Civil et un Code Criminel élaborés conformément aux principes modernes de la justice, en décrétant que les Tribunaux du "Chéri" ne connaîtront que des contestations entre Musulmans, et en réformant la composition des Tribunaux appelés à juger toutes les affaires dans lesquelles se trouvent impliqués les Chrétiens; en donnant à cette nouvelle organisation de la justice l'appui indispensable d'une gendarmerie appelée à créer la sécurité, et composée, à l'exclusion des populations nomades, des Musulmans et des Arméniens domiciliés dans la province depuis cinq ans, commandée par un Chef Européen, et ayant un nombre égal d'officiers Musulmans et Arméniens. Deux autres réformes impérieusement réclamées par le principe d'égalité proclamé par le Gouvernement Impérial, seraient l'établissement d'une loi agraire pour mitiger les effets d'un prolétariat trop criant, et l'emploi de la langue Arménienne concurremment avec la langue Turque dans tous les actes officiels.

Ces réformes seront-elles suffisantes pour faire cesser les souffrances séculaires des Arméniens? Elles serviraient, sans doute, à faire disparaître les injustices criantes, et à amener la paix dans les esprits. Mais ce résultat serait certainement bien insuffisant. Il faut rendre la vie à cette partie de la Turquie où règnent depuis si longtemps la mort et la désolation.

La triste expérience qui a été faite prouve jusqu'à l'évidence qu'en faisant converger tout vers le centre, et en subordonnant toute initiative locale à l'action du Gouvernement Central, le mouvement et la vie s'arrêtent dans les provinces. Les parties de l'Empire les plus richement douées par la nature sont vouées à la pauvreté, tandis que les provinces moins fertiles et moins industrieuses jouissent d'une prospérité relative, grâce au système de franchises locales dont elles sont dotées. Si je ne me trompe, Excellence, avant même la dernière guerre l'Europe a demandé la décentralisation pour les provinces de l'Empire. Les Arméniens persistent à croire que c'est la meilleure, et même la seule, garantie des réformes en même temps que le seul moyen de vivifier le pays. Si au lieu de tous les ordres, Firmans, et actes plus ou moins solennels dont le centre a inondé les provinces, on avait tout simplement procédé à la nomination d'un Gouverneur-Général capable et libre de toute attache religieuse, ne s'inspirant que de ses devoirs administratifs, avec des pouvoirs étendus pour ce qui concerne les travaux et l'instruction publics, et disposant dans une juste et raisonnable proportion des revenus de la province pour les employer dans la province même, l'Arménie serait aujourd'hui une des plus belles contrées de la Turquie, où sous l'Empire des lois vivraient paisiblement, et dans une harmonie parfaite, ceux qui ne semblent vivre aujourd'hui qu'aux dépens les uns des autres.

Telles sont, M. l'Ambassadeur, les réformes que les Arméniens croient efficaces pour réaliser la pensée qui a présidé à la rédaction de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin. Votre Excellence, qui a toujours témoigné une vive sollicitude à l'endroit de la malheureuse nation des Arméniens, donnerait une nouvelle et précieuse preuve de sa

sollicitude en portant ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement qu'elle représente si dignement en Turquie.

Veuillez, &c.
Patriarche Démissionnaire,
(Signé) Archêveque NERSES.

No. 282.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 477.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1879.*

CAPTAIN TROTTER having informed me by telegraph that the Commissioners sent by the Turkish Government to inquire into the condition of the Vilayet of Erzeroum had told him that they had received no instructions, either verbally or in writing, to permit him to accompany them, although his interview with them had otherwise been very satisfactory, I spoke on the subject at once to Carathéodory Pasha, who said that he would direct the Commissioners to enter into private relations with Major Trotter, on the condition, previously clearly understood, that the English officers who accompanied the Commissions appointed by the Porte did not do so officially, so as to give occasion for other Powers to ask for the same privileges as a right. I telegraphed to this effect to Major Trotter, who now informs me that he has been able to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Turkish Commissioners on this basis.

I have the honour to inclose copies of the three telegrams which have passed between Major Trotter and myself on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 282.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Erzeroum, June 3, 1879.*

YOUR despatch received yesterday. Both Commissioners assured me this day they had received no instructions, verbally or in writing, about my accompanying Commission. Interview otherwise very satisfactory. It is desirable instructions be dispatched as soon as possible.

Inclosure 2 in No. 282.

Sir A. H. Layard to Major Trotter.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 5, 1879.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to Commissioners to have unofficial relations with you, and you can accompany them, without, however, having any official position. This was clearly understood when I asked that an English official should be with the Commission sent to Armenia and Asia Minor. You must avoid giving to other Powers the occasion of demanding the same privilege as a right. Let me know if you have been able to come to a satisfactory understanding with the Commissioners on this basis.

Inclosure 3 in No. 282.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Erzeroum, June 10, 1879.*

HAVE made satisfactory arrangements on basis laid down by your Excellency; details by post.

No. 283.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 479.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 11, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT to your Lordship a despatch from Colonel Wilson, sent through me to your Lordship under flying seal, in which he draws your Lordship's earnest attention to the terms of the "Berats" or exequaturs, given to himself and the Vice-Consuls under him, and points out that the Vilayet of Adana is not included in the berat given to Captain Cooper.*

I have had great difficulty in explaining to Colonel Wilson that the Porte could not issue Berats to more than one Consul or Vice-Consul for the same district. To do so would only lead to confusion, and would be opposed to all precedent. I am not aware that in any country several Consuls, belonging to the same nation, have Consular jurisdiction in the same place. When Mr. Malet applied for Vice-Consular exequaturs for Anatolia, for more than one officer, the Porte objected that the definition was too vague, and requested that the jurisdiction and residence of each should be defined. The request was reasonable, and your Lordship instructed me to accede to it. Colonel Wilson then asked for an exequatur for Captain Cooper, to include Angora, Kaisarieh, and Adana. I pointed out to him that Mr. Gatherall was already British Vice-Consul at Angora, including Kaisarieh (which is not a vilayet but an "eyalet" within the Province of Angora), and that he would consequently be superseded if the required exequatur were issued for Captain Cooper. Your Lordship directed that Mr. Gatherall should not be disturbed, and the Porte, on my application, agreed to give a Berat to Captain Cooper for the district of Kaisarieh, thus detaching it from Angora. The Vilayet of Adana is a distinct and separate province. There is already a British Vice-Consul in it residing at Tarsous and Mersina, Mr. Tattarachi, who is accredited to the Vali. I have requested your Lordship to inform me whether it is your intention that he should be removed. If so, there will be no difficulty, I apprehend, in extending Captain Cooper's Vice-Consular jurisdiction to the Vilayet of Adana.

The objection to the appointment of Lieutenant Chermside as Vice-Consul in the Vilayet of Brousa, or Houdavendeghiar, was overcome by the removal of Mr. Gilbertson.

Colonel Wilson complains of the limited terms of his Berat, and of those of the Vice-Consuls under him. But they have been made out in the usual form, and are such as are given to all Consuls-General, Consuls, and Vice-Consuls in the Turkish Empire. Under them, with temper, tact, and judgment, Colonel Wilson, and the officers under him, can carry out, I have every reason to believe, the instructions given to them by your Lordship. Other Consular officers have found no difficulty in "inquiring into the condition of the various classes of the population within their Consular jurisdiction, assisting the Turkish authorities with their advice, and with any information that they may be able to collect," and in "noting and remonstrating against all cases of oppression or corruption on the part of the executive and judiciary which may come to their knowledge." As your Lordship is aware, British Consular officers are in the constant habit of giving such information, and making such remonstrances, and scarcely a day passes without representations, founded upon their reports, being addressed by me to the Porte. If your Lordship intends that the Porte should confer upon Colonel Wilson and his Vice-Consuls exceptional political powers, and direct authority to take part in administrative questions, more than Consular exequaturs should have been required for them. The Porte should be called upon to recognize them as "Special Commissioners," or under some other title. This, except under extreme pressure, it would no doubt refuse to do, and it is for your Lordship to judge whether it would be desirable or politic, under present circumstances, to raise the question. The time may come when it may be necessary to insist upon exceptional political powers being given by the Turkish Government to Her Majesty's Consular officers in the Asiatic territories of the Sultan, if the Convention of the 4th June be not faithfully executed by the Porte. But, in my opinion, the time has not yet come for this.

Colonel Wilson complains of his detention at Constantinople. Had he followed my advice, he would have left soon after my arrival. I was convinced that there was no real difficulty as to the issue of his Berat, and those of his Vice-Consuls, except as to matters of form; and, as in other similar cases, I would have sent the documents,

* No. 309.

when obtained, after him. There are formalities required for the issue of an exequatur which always require a certain time. I regretted that Colonel Wilson considered it right to remain here, as it gave rise to reports which, by exciting the suspicions of the Turks, might have seriously interfered with the issue of the exequaturs. It was announced in the newspapers that he was proceeding to Anatolia to carry out the "protectorate" of England. Colonel Wilson, in his Memorandum referred to by your Lordship in your despatch No. 507, Secret, of the 10th April last, suggests that the Porte should be induced to discourage the appointment of Russian Consular Agents in Anatolia. The most effective way to excite the jealousy of Russia and of other Powers, and to cause them to demand as a right (which the Porte could not refuse to acknowledge) the appointment of Consular officers in all parts of Asiatic Turkey, is to make too great a show of Colonel Wilson's mission. He will be able, I have every reason to hope, to do all that is required of him if he acts quietly and unostentatiously. But serious mischief may arise, and considerable embarrassment be caused to our relations with the Porte, if he assumes a position independent of the Embassy, and political powers which the Turkish Government is not likely, under present circumstances, to publicly and officially recognize, although it may not be disposed to call them in question if judiciously exercised.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I beg to inclose translation of the Berat given to Mr. Vivian, as Her Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, which corresponds precisely with that possessed by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge. Your Lordship will perceive that they are identical with that given to Colonel Wilson.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Berat given to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt (Mr. Vivian).

(Traduction.)

LE Consul-Général d'Angleterre en Egypte, Mr. Stanton, chargé de protéger les intérêts et les affaires des commerçants et sujets Anglais qui vont et viennent, ayant été nommé ailleurs, l'Ambassade d'Angleterre, résidant en ma ville de Constantinople, a demandé par écrit un Bérat et un Firman pour la reconnaissance de Mr. Vivian, nommé Consul-Général en son lieu et place. Il ressort des registres qu'il a été donné un Bérat et un Firman à l'ex-Consul-Général pour la reconnaissance de ses fonctions, à la fin du mois de Moukarrem, de l'année 1282, par conséquent, en conformité du précédent et des clauses des Capitulations, je donne le présent Bérat au Consul-Général susmentionné, et j'ordonne que Mr. Vivian, &c. (s'il n'est pas sujet Ottoman), nommé Consul-Général pour protéger les intérêts et les affaires des commerçants et sujets Anglais qui vont et viennent en Egypte, personne ne lui fasse la moindre opposition tant qu'il s'acquittera de ses fonctions d'accord avec les stipulations des Traités conclus entre les deux Etats; qu'il soit protégé, respecté, et assisté au besoin dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, et qu'on s'abstienne de tout acte contraire aux Traités existants.

N.B.—Bérat identique donné à Mr. Eldridge, Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique en Syrie, en 1279.

No. 284.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 482. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 12, 1879.*

IN private conversation with the Sultan yesterday, I observed that Her Majesty's Government attached great importance to the occupation by his troops of Bourgas, Ichtiman, and other places, if necessary, on the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, as soon as the Russians had evacuated them, and that I sincerely hoped that he would have troops ready for this purpose. I dwelt upon the importance of Bourgas as a military position, and warned His Majesty against any attempts that might be made to dissuade

him from insisting upon his right of holding it. His Majesty replied that he was quite alive to the importance of this place, and that he should give orders to the Minister of Marine to embark a body of Turks on some small vessels of war, ready to be landed as soon as the Russians quitted it.

His Majesty then complained that the Russians had not executed the Article of the Treaty of Berlin respecting the demolition of the fortresses in Bulgaria, and especially that nothing whatever had been done to dismantle Varna. His Majesty added that, whilst Russia was making constant complaints against the Porte for not carrying out every Article of the Treaty, she herself had failed to fulfil her obligations in that respect. His Majesty asked me what he should do under the circumstances. I suggested that the Porte might call the attention of the Signatory Powers to the fact that no measures had yet been taken to demolish the fortifications of the strong places in Bulgaria, as required by the Treaty. His Majesty said that he should probably take this course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 285.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 483. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 12, 1879.*

THE Sultan told me yesterday that he had been able to obtain proofs that it was not Mahmoud Nedim Pasha alone who had been the cause of the reduction of the interest payable on the foreign debt to one-half, which had been justly denounced as an act of bad faith towards the Turkish creditors, and had led to such disastrous consequences; but that he had taken this step with the connivance and sanction of the members of his Government. Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, His Majesty went on to say, had, like Count Arnim in a well-known instance, removed from the archives of the Porte the papers connected with this matter. But the "Mazbata" recommending the reduction of the interest had now been produced, and it contained the signatures of all the Ministers then in office, including, I believe, Midhat, Safvet, and others. Thus, His Majesty added, it is evident that they must share the responsibility with the head of the Government.

This statement, which was made by His Majesty without any special reference to the subject on which we were conversing, tends to confirm a prevailing report that His Majesty is about to permit Mahmoud Nedim to return to the capital, and that he may again be called upon to fill the office of Grand Vizier. He has, of late, sent me messages to the effect that he was convinced that the true policy of the Turkish Government was to maintain the most friendly and intimate relations with England, whose interests and those of Turkey were identical, and that if he should return to power his policy would be based upon this conviction. I have not encouraged these overtures or given him any hope that I would contribute to his recall.

I understand that he has recently sent a near relation to Constantinople, with a view to influence the Sultan in his favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 286.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 484. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 12, 1879.*

IN the programme of reforms drawn up by the Sultan, and communicated to me by His Majesty, as reported to your Lordship in my Secret despatch No. 442 of the the 28th ultimo, there was an article referring to Ministerial responsibility. I am informed that this part of His Majesty's programme has now been communicated to the Council of Ministers for examination, and for its opinion and advice. The subject is one of very great importance. If His Majesty is well advised, and can be brought to understand the absolute necessity of confiding in his Ministers, and

of giving them greater latitude in carrying on the affairs of their respective departments, and of abstaining himself from interference, leaving the responsibility to his Government, some of the evils which now exist, and which so seriously impede the progress of affairs and lead to confusion in the administration, and to bad government, will be removed. Hairedin Pasha has frequently urged this subject upon His Majesty's attention, and it is to be hoped that he will be able to carry out his views with regard to it, which, as far as I can judge from the opinions he has expressed to me, are liberal and constitutional.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 287.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 485. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 12, 1879.*

IN consequence of the reports that I have received from Major Trotter, and from other trustworthy persons, and of the representations addressed to me by the Armenian Patriarch, with reference to the state of affairs in the eastern provinces of Asiatic Turkey, the anarchy which prevails, the insecurity of life and property, the ill-treatment of the Christians, the general maladministration, and the apparent failure of the Commissions, appointed by the Porte, to redress the grievances complained of, I have considered that the time is come to make a very serious representation on the subject to the Porte. I have accordingly given a written instruction to Sir Alfred Sandison, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, as to the language he was authorized by me to hold to Carathéodory Pasha. His Excellency having asked for a copy of it, *pro memorid*, I allowed Sir A. Sandison to let him have one.

Both the Grand Vizier and Carathéodory Pasha are fully aware of the lamentable condition of the provinces to which I have called their attention, and as to the necessity of taking immediate and effective measures to put an end to it. My communication may serve to strengthen their hands in the Council, where they meet with unscrupulous opposition, and will, I trust, reach the Sultan, to whom, unless matters improve, I have the intention of addressing myself personally.

Unless the Porte takes care, and acts with wisdom and foresight, it will soon have an Armenian question in Asia, similar to the Bulgarian question in Europe which led to the late war. The same intrigues are now being carried on in Asia Minor to establish an Armenian nationality, and to bring about a state of things which may give rise to a Christian outcry and European interference. I have warned the Turkish Ministers, over and over again, that unless they hasten to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin with respect to the Armenians, and the Convention of the 4th June, and to take the measures which are absolutely required for the protection of the Christians, and for the better government of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, they will find out when it is too late that the Sultan may be in danger of losing some of them altogether.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 287.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sir A. Sandison.

Therapia, June 11, 1879.

CALL Carathéodory Pasha's very serious attention to the state of affairs in Armenia and Eastern Anatolia. Universal anarchy and misgovernment appear to reign in those regions, and the reports which the Embassy receives of their condition is truly deplorable.

Her Majesty's Ambassador has communicated to his Excellency a Memorandum with reference to the results of the Commission sent to inquire into the events which have recently taken place at Zeitoun and Marash, and to introduce reforms into the Vilayet of Aleppo with a view to the protection of the Christians and other populations. It appears that not only has this mission proved abortive, but it has rendered the

position of the Christians and the condition of affairs even worse than before. Her Majesty's Ambassador learns, on trustworthy and impartial authority, that the conduct of the head of that Commission is a public scandal, and that he has completely lost the respect and confidence of persons of all classes.

Her Majesty's Ambassador sends another Memorandum to-day on the state of the Vilayet of Diarbekir. He has already brought to the notice of Carathéodory Pasha the sad condition of a part of that province.

Her Majesty's Government is very unwilling, under the present circumstances, to press the Porte to carry out to their full extent the reforms that it has promised to introduce into the administration of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.

But Her Majesty's Government cannot forget the obligations entered into by Turkey by the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin. Her Majesty's Ambassador desires, therefore, to warn the Porte most earnestly of the dangers that it is running by allowing the present state of anarchy to continue by not affording proper protection to the Christian populations, and by not at least commencing the reforms which it engaged to introduce without delay into one or two provinces of Anatolia.

No. 288.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 486. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 12, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier informs me that he is engaged in working out a new financial scheme in communication with M. Tarin and M. Parins, the foreign Law Officers of the Porte, which will enable the Porte to obtain the money which is absolutely necessary for the payment of the troops, in order to effect a considerable reduction in the army, and for carrying out other equally urgent measures. A part of this scheme consists in placing the administration of the Customs and the collection of the indirect taxes under the control of a Commission, consisting of a considerable number of members, including Turkish subjects and foreigners of different nationalities. His Highness intimated to me that it was proposed to increase the indirect taxes, such as those upon tobacco, salt, &c., and the house tax, and to impose fresh taxes upon property; and that by these means, and by reducing the public expenditure to the lowest possible amount, he had great hopes of being able to balance it and the receipts.

Some of the Galata bankers, including Messrs. Zarifi, Camondo, Fernandez, and others, have submitted to the Porte a somewhat similar scheme; but they further propose a temporary augmentation in the Tariff, to last for a period of five years. With this object they have submitted to the Grand Vizier the draft of a note, which they suggest should be sent to the Representatives of all the foreign Powers at Constantinople, requesting them to obtain the consent of their respective Governments to the increase, for a time, of the duties payable on foreign goods and on exports. Like Haireddin Pasha, they propose a Commission for the administration of the Customs and for the collection of the indirect taxes; but they suggest that it should consist largely of the Galata banker element. If the Porte agree to this scheme, they are prepared to advance at once, I believe, about 2,000,000*l.* to the Turkish Government.

Nothing has as yet been decided as to these schemes; but Haireddin Pasha told me yesterday that his plan was about to be discussed in the Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 289.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 487. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I TOLD the Grand Vizier yesterday that amongst the papers on Turkish affairs about to be presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Government would be a despatch from me, communicating to your Lordship the assurance given to me by the Sultan and himself that the Porte had entered into no engagement whatever with Russia not

to occupy the Balkans with Turkish troops, and that all that His Majesty had said to General Obrutcheff was that "for the present" he would not exercise the right of doing so conferred upon him by the Treaty of Berlin. I trusted, I said, that I had rightly informed Her Majesty's Government. His Highness replied that, not only had His Majesty refused to take the engagement in this respect required of him, but had answered that only "for a short time" would he abstain from sending his troops into the Balkans.

I understand that when the Mazbata of the Council of Ministers was submitted to the Sultan advising him not to promise more than that he would not occupy the Balkans "for the present," His Majesty struck out these words, and substituted "for a few days," which were, however, subsequently altered to "for a short time."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 290.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 488.)
Therapia, June 12, 1879.

My Lord,

HAIREDDIN PASHA has informed me that the Sultan has approved the "Mazbata," submitted to His Majesty by the Council of Ministers, recommending that the demands of the Cretan Assembly referred to in Consul Sandwith's recent despatches, and the suggestions of Photiades Pasha, should be acceded to. The papers on this subject have been returned from the Palace with His Majesty's "Iradé." They will be handed over at once to the Governor-General, who will then be able to return without delay to the island.

It is to be hoped that these concessions, which have been wisely made by the Sultan and the Porte, will satisfy the Cretans, will put a stop to the agitation which foreign agents have been endeavouring to promote in the island, and will strengthen the authority of Photiades Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 291.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 489.)
Therapia, June 12, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ZICHY states to me that his Government has received trustworthy information that Panslavist and revolutionary agents are engaged at Sophia, Widdin, and some other places in Bulgaria, in making preparations for an approaching invasion of Macedonia with a view of inciting an insurrection against the Turkish Government.

I have called Mr. Palgrave's attention to the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 292.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 491. Confidential.)
Therapia, June 13, 1879.

My Lord,

M. FRÉMY, a French financier, who is well-known from his connection with the "Crédit Foncier," was recently invited by the Sultan to Constantinople. His Majesty received him with great distinction, sent carriages to convey him to an hotel, where apartments had been engaged for him at His Majesty's expense, and immediately asked him to dinner. I have not yet been able to ascertain how this invitation was brought about. I have been informed that M. Frémy was recommended to His Majesty as an able and trustworthy financial adviser by the Empress

Eugénie, whose banker, I am told, he is. His son was here last year with a proposal to replace the Turkish silver and copper currency by a new metal, of which I forget the name, but it was not accepted. Haireddin Pasha tells me that the father has brought this proposal again forward; but his Highness added that it was only going back under another form to the caïmé, and that he had refused to listen to it.

I have not yet had an opportunity of speaking to the Sultan about M. Frémy. When I dined at the Palace on Wednesday His Majesty mentioned that he had invited that gentlemen to Constantinople, and added that he had proposed certain financial schemes "which were not acceptable." Haireddin Pasha, who is much annoyed that the Sultan should have entered into relations with M. Frémy without consulting his Ministers, at once repeated His Majesty's statements.

I am informed by Mr. Foster, the Manger of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, that M. Frémy has told him that he is anxious to come to some arrangement with that establishment, without the assistance and co-operation of which he now finds that he cannot carry out any financial scheme in Turkey.

I have limited myself to conveying a hint to the Sultan that he should be warned by the De Tocqueville scheme not to put himself too much in the hands of M. Frémy, and that he should obtain information from a trustworthy source as to the antecedents and reputation of that gentleman before entering into any financial arrangement with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 293.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 494.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Philippopolis, Bourgas, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 130.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a letter which was addressed by M. Christoviez (or Christides, as he signs his name in the letter) to the Greek Archbishop, in reply to the protest of the Greek community against the infraction of the Organic Statute by the omission to read the Sultan's Firman in the Greek language.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 293.

M. Christides to the Greek Archbishop of Philippopolis.

(Translation.)
Eminence,

I HASTEN, as in duty bound, and by order of his Excellency the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, to transmit to you the inclosed copies of the two Imperial Firmans which were read yesterday, and of the Address of his Excellency the Governor-General, which was subsequently proclaimed, in order that you may be good enough to distribute and communicate them to all the Christians of your Spiritual See.

I beg your indulgence if, by chance, any involuntary omission or oversight has occurred, and I beg you to believe, and to assure your flock, that the Governor-General is firmly determined, in accordance with the Organic Statute, to consider all the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia on an equal footing, and to treat all with equal justice and impartiality.

Requesting (in my favour) your paternal prayers and blessings, I remain, &c.
(Signed) G. CHRISTIDES, *Secretary-General, &c.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 131.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 4, 1879.

THE Greek community of Philippopolis complain that the Organic Statute has again been disregarded by the publication yesterday of a municipal notice in the Bulgarian language alone.

The notice in question is to the effect that the right of collecting the municipal dues on the weighing and measuring of merchandize has been sold to a local speculator.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 132. Confidential.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 4, 1879.

I AM informed that intimation of the intention of the Greek community to lodge a protest against the omission to read the Sultan's Firmans in their language reached Aleko Pasha before the protest was drawn up, and that his Excellency, in conversation with the Greek Consul, approved of the intended action of the Greek community; only, his Excellency expressed a desire that the protest should be addressed, not to him, but to the European Commission, a suggestion which was not followed by the signatories of the protest.

Aleko Pasha even intimated to my Greek colleague that he would not be displeased if the Greeks of Philippopolis also protested, in writing, against the exclusive appointment of Bulgarians to the different posts in the Administration of the province, and I understand that the Greeks intend to act upon this hint.

With regard to the new administrative nominations, I regret to say that Aleko Pasha appears to submit entirely to the dictation of the National Committee.

For instance, his Excellency was, during the first day or two after his arrival, inclined to take into his counsels, and to appoint to an important office in the Administration, Dr. Tchomakoff, an old and valued friend of his Excellency's. But he has now began to treat Dr. Tchomakoff with marked reserve, it having, I am assured, been represented to Aleko Pasha by some members of the National Committee that the Doctor was a too-well known partizan of the Turks to be acceptable to the majority of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 133.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Governor-General has submitted the following appointments to the Sultan for approval, in addition to the appointment of Gabril Effendi (Christoviez), Secretary-General, as Director for Home Affairs, and of General Vitalis as Commander of the Militia and Gendarmerie:—

M. Joachim Grueff, Director of the Department of Public Instruction.
M. Kessiakoff (Iskroff), Director of the Department of Justice.
M. Vulcovitch, Director of the Department of Public Works.
M. Schmidt, Director of the Department of Finance.
These gentlemen met in Council yesterday for the first time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—Your Excellency will observe that all the above nominees are Bulgarians with the exception of M. Schmidt.

T. M.

Inclosure 6 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 134.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 4, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98 of the 25th ultimo, on the subject of the Russian evacuation, I have the honour to report that four regiments of cavalry stationed in this province have received orders to concentrate at Rustchuk, whence they will return to Russia by way of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 136.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 4, 1879.*

I LEARN on good authority that the Russian officers stationed in this town and district have subscribed a sum of 900 half-Imperials (about 800*l.*) in aid of the Macedonian malcontents, and that the Bulgarian Archbishop's Secretary was this afternoon dispatched to Küstendil in charge of this sum.

The Russian officers serving in the local militia have also subscribed 1,000 half-Imperials, partly for the Bulgarian orphanage lately instituted in this town, and partly for the purpose of buying a new mitre and ecclesiastical vestments for the Exarch. It is intended to expend 600 half-Imperials for the mitre and vestments, and the remaining 400 half-Imperials are to be given to the orphanage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 8 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 137.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that 280 Bulgarian and Greek refugees, who had emigrated from the Province of Adrianople, and been quartered by the Russian authorities at Tatar-Bazardjik, returned to Adrianople on the 31st ultimo, by a special train chartered by Rüstu Pasha.

At Harmanly, on the borders of Eastern Roumelia, the train was stopped by order of the Russian Commandant of the railway station, who told off a picket of soldiers to prevent the train from pursuing its journey.

The station-master telegraphed on the subject to Adrianople, and an interchange of telegrams ensued between the Turkish and Russian authorities, which ended in the train being allowed to proceed, after a detention of only three hours. A second party of refugees returned from Tatar-Bazardjik to Adrianople on the following day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 9 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 139.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 5, 1879.*

SIXTEEN cart-loads of ammunition were yesterday dispatched from the stores of the local militia to the district of Karadja-Dagh, each cart being escorted by an armed Bulgarian peasant.

On the other hand, I learn from Carlova that the drilling of the Bulgarian peasantry in that neighbourhood has been suspended within the last few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 10 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 140.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 5, 1879.*

AT a meeting of the Council of Provisional Directors of Departments held yesterday under the Presidency of Aleko Pasha, the Statutes of a Society for aid to the sick, "Female Benevolent Society," were examined and approved.

The ostensible object of this Society, in which Russian ladies are at present the prime movers, is to establish orphanages, hospitals, and institutions for training nurses all over the province.

Members of two of the principal Greek families in this town have joined it, and the right of membership may be acquired by any subscriber of 14 fr. per annum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 11 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 141.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 6, 1879.*

METHODIUS (Koussovitch), the Protosyngelos of the Bulgarian Archbishop, and a native of Macedonia, informs me that he has received letters to the effect that the Bulgarian population of certain central districts in Macedonia had risen in arms and were engaged in capturing Turkish brigands, by whom they had long been molested.

He mentioned the districts of Marihowo, Lerina, Kostura, Villessa, Marishovo, and Strumitsa, and the town of Prilep, as the principal seats of those proceedings, which, he assured me, had been forced upon the inhabitants by the neglect of the Porte to establish security for life and property.

According to the Protosyngelos' statement, that want of security proceeds from the manner in which the "Poliaki," or watchmen over fields are appointed. The Poliaki, he complained, are in the employment of the principal Turkish Boys, and, with the support of the latter, they are in the habit of enforcing large contributions, as well as service in kind, on the Bulgarian peasantry, who are invariably murdered if they attempt to oppose the demands of the Poliaki.

The Protosyngelos also stated that the movement in question is entirely independent of the insurrectionary movement which had been organized, and of which the leaders had been advised to renounce their intentions.

He spontaneously confirmed the accuracy of the reports which I have transmitted to your Excellency, to the effect that many of the peasants who had been enlisted for the "Macedonian insurrection" had returned to their homes.

The name of the priest whose statements to me I have reported as above is, I observe, mentioned in Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert's despatches of last autumn, as the Agent in Constantinople of the Bulgarian Revolutionary Committee for Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 12 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 143.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, June 6, 1879.*

GENERAL VITALIS told me last night that, on examining the muster-roll of the local militia, Colonel Kessiakoff had only been able to show on paper an effective force of 8,000 men, instead of the nominal number of 12,000. Indeed, the General was of opinion that the real number of men under arms was only 6,000.

He had also discovered that many officers who had taken their discharge three weeks ago were still borne on the pay sheets.

Colonel Kessiakoff had, moreover, acknowledged to him that he had effected a saving of 200,000 roubles (about 10,000*l.*) out of the victualling of the militia, being the difference, as he alleged, between the authorized contract price of provisions, &c., and the price at which he had been able to purchase.

Colonel Kessiakoff had declared to General Vitalis that the money belonged to the Emperor of Russia, to whom alone he would surrender it.

Having explained to General Vitalis that, when the expenditure of the Russian authorities in respect to the militia shall come to be examined by the Provincial Assembly, he will be held accountable for the numerical condition in which he found the force under his command, as well as for any funds that might have been accumulated in the regimental chest under the head of "savings, according to the customs of the Russian army, I urged him very strongly to bring the whole matter before the Council in writing, and I also spoke to Aleko Pasha in the same sense.

Both the Governor-General and the Commander-in-chief of the militia assured me of their intention to make a strict and formal inquiry.

It is very probable that the money subscribed by the officers of the militia for a mitre and ecclesiastical vestments, and for the support of the Bulgarian Orphanage, as reported in my despatch No. 136 of the 4th instant, has been derived from the "savings" made by Colonel Kessiakoff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 13 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 144.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, June 6, 1879.*

THE inclosed article from the "Maritza" contains a biographical notice of the Directors of Departments nominated by Aleko Pasha.

The ground on which the Bulgarian organ defends the selection of M. Iskroff (Kessiakoff) for the post of the Department of Justice is obviously feeble.

I believe M. Kessiakoff (Iskroff) is still under judgment at Constantinople, if not actually condemned, in a matter of contract for the supply of sleepers to the local railway.

He has had no legal training, and, therefore, his nomination is much ridiculed even by Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 14 in No. 293.

Extract from the "Maritza" of June 6, 1879.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{18}{30}$ Mai / 11 Juin 1879.

NOUS avons publié dans notre précédent numéro la composition du Cabinet de la Roumélie Orientale. Les hommes qui forment le Conseil Privé du Prince Gouverneur sont connus dans tout le pays, et nous ne croyons pas trouver de contradicteurs parmi nos compatriotes en affirmant que le Directoire ne pouvait, dans les circonstances actuelles, être constitué d'une manière plus satisfaisante.

Ce n'est donc que pour dissiper certaines préventions, habilement entretenues,

de l'étranger, que nous croyons devoir dire quelques mots sur la personnalité de nos Ministres.

Nous n'avons pas à examiner la valeur du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur, M. Gabriel Kerstovitch, Docteur en Droit de la Faculté de Paris. C'est Gavril Effendi, le plus éminent légiste Ottoman; c'est cet homme d'un caractère Catonien qui sert depuis plus de trente ans fidèlement la Turquie, et qui, tout en n'ayant pas toujours partagé les vues des Chefs du mouvement national, n'a cependant jamais cessé d'être respecté par tout le peuple Bulgare comme un de ses illustres fils des plus dévoués. Aussi, à la nouvelle de la nomination de M. Kerstovitch, le sentiment du peuple se traduisit-il par ces mots caractéristiques que l'on entendait dans tout le pays: "Bogoridi et Kerstovitch . . . . alors c'est bien."

Le Directeur de la Justice est M. Théodore Iskroff, un Philippopolitain, que son esprit d'équité, résultat sans doute des innombrables persécutions dont cet homme de bien fut autrefois en butte, a désigné pour le poste important que le Prince Gouverneur vient de lui confier. M. Iskroff occupe d'ailleurs depuis bientôt un an le poste le plus élevé de la magistrature Rouméliote, celui de Président de la Cour d'Appel de Philippopoli. Des gens qui naguère trouvaient encore tout naturel que des Pachas, sachant à peine signer leur nom, nous distribuassent la justice, feront peut-être l'observation que M. Iskroff n'est pas bien versé dans les codes. Mais ils oublient que dans un pays dans lequel la justice à la *tourca* a fatalement dû laisser des traces profondes, il faut pour le Département de la Justice avant tout un homme impartial, pratique, et travailleur. Quant aux codes et digestes, nous avons dans le Cabinet le plus éminent légiste Ottoman qui, en sa qualité de Secrétaire-Général, aura nécessairement la haute main sur les affaires de la justice aussi bien que sur toutes les autres affaires publiques.

M. Voulkovitch, Directeur de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, n'est pas, lui non plus, ce qu'on appelle un "Ministre spécialiste." C'est un Docteur de la Faculté de Médicine de Paris, encore dans la fleur de l'âge. Il a été jusqu'à ces derniers temps médecin principal dans l'armée Ottomane, où il a donné tant de preuves de ses vastes connaissances, de la hardiesse de ses conceptions et de son énergie, qu'il est considéré, par les membres de la Commission Internationale eux-mêmes, comme un homme qui serait à sa place dans tout Ministère Européen. Doublé d'un bon "spécialiste," M. Voulkovitch fera, nous en avons la certitude, honneur à notre Directoire.

M. Joachim Grouyeff, le Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, lui, est "spécialisto" à tel point même qu'on n'avait pas à le nommer; il est de droit Directeur de l'Instruction. C'est ce travailleur infatigable, un des autodidactes les plus remarquables de notre époque, qui a pour ainsi dire déterré notre langue du tombeau où l'avait ensevelie le clergé Phanariote. M. Grouyeff, qui est depuis trente ans sur la brèche, a été tour à tour professeur, Adjoint du Mutéssarif de Philippopoli, Président du Tribunal, &c.

Quant aux membres étrangers, le Général Vitalis et M. Schmidt, "spécialistes" tous les deux, ils sont assez connus pour que nous n'ayons pas besoin de justifier leur choix.

Inclosure 15 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 145.)

Sir, *Philippopolis, June 7, 1879.*

I BEG to inclose herewith a list of the principal leaders of the Bulgarian malcontents on the Macedonian frontier, which has been given to me by a person who has access to trustworthy sources of information respecting the Macedonian organized movement.

It appears from that list that, out of the twenty principal leaders who have remained at the head of the malcontents, only one—the Commander-in-chief—is a Russian, while seven are Servians, eight are Bulgarians, two Koutzo-Wlachs, one a Greek, and one an Austrian Serb.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 16 in No. 293.

Names of Principal Leaders of Bulgarian Malcontents on Macedonian Frontier.

1. Colonel Alexandroff, a Russian Commander-in-chief.
2. Nikitch, a Servian, second in command.
3. Dimitri Voïvoda, Bulgarian.
4. Vassil Voïvoda, Koutzo-Wlach.
5. Georgi Voïvoda, Koutzo-Wlach.
6. Yorgahs Voïvoda, Greek.
7. Gratitch, Austrian Serb.
8. Dimitri Kekeroff, Bulgarian.
9. Dobrovolovitch, Servian.
10. Abramoff, Bulgarian.
11. Popovitch, Servian.
12. Balkanski, Bulgarian.
13. Shtribakoff, Bulgarian.
14. Nicolaïevitch, Servian.
15. Sarevitch, Servian.
16. Trindaphiloff, Bulgarian.
17. Marinovitch, Servian.
18. Pope (priest) Nicolas, Bulgarian.
19. Pope (priest) Angel, Bulgarian.
20. Diakovitch, Servian.

Inclosure 17 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 147.)

Philippopolis, June 7, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to transmit to your Excellency herewith an article from the local Greek organ, calling attention to the injustice of compelling the Province of Eastern Roumelia to pay more than 23,000,000 fr. out of 43,000,000 fr., which represents the total estimated cost of maintaining the Russian army of occupation in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria.

The Greek newspaper is of opinion that, even if the occupying army had been larger in this province than in the Principality, Eastern Roumelia, being far smaller in area and population than Bulgaria, ought not to suffer from what it terms a "military caprice."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 18 in No. 293.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of June 7, 1879.

DE toutes les questions qui, ces jours derniers, ont été mises sur le tapis, la plus importante est, sans contredit, celle des frais d'indemnité d'occupation Russe que doit payer la Roumélie Orientale.

C'est une question qui, dès aujourd'hui, crée au pays de grandes difficultés financières, et cela parce qu'il ne s'agit pas ici d'une bagatelle, mais bien de 23,000,000 fr., somme relativement considérable. Nous saluons humblement ces respectables millions! Et nous nous demandons avec effroi comment on s'y prendra pour les trouver. Avant de nous appésantir sur cette question capitale, examinons si c'est juste et logique qu'on nous les réclame.

D'après l'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin, l'armée d'occupation Russe de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale ne devait pas s'élever à plus de 50,000 hommes, entretenus par le pays occupé.

Si, d'après les Tableaux publiés ci-dessous, 26,800 hommes, formant le contingent de l'armée d'occupation de la Roumélie Orientale, ont nécessité pour leur entretien, depuis le $\frac{1}{13}$ Août, 1878, jusqu'au $\frac{1}{13}$ Mai, de la présente année, une somme de

,281,275 fr., il devient donc plus qu'évident que le total de 50,000 hommes, fixé par le Traité de Berlin pour l'occupation de la Roumélie Orientale et de la Principauté de Bulgarie, devait nécessiter 43,435,214 fr., somme qui devrait être supportée par les deux pays occupés, c'est-à-dire la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale. Or, il nous reste maintenant à connaître qu'elle est la part des frais qui revient à la Principauté de Bulgarie et qu'elle est celle qui incombe à la Roumélie Orientale.

L'Article XXII ne parle nullement de la manière dont l'indemnité sera acquittée et cela, parce qu'il était complétement superflu d'attaquer cette question, étant établi d'avance, qu'en pareil cas, chaque pays doit être imposé en proportion des habitants qui le composent. Ce mode de répartition, affirmons-nous, est le plus facile, le plus naturel, et le plus rationnel. De cette manière, la Principauté limitrophe, habitée par une population approximativement évaluée à 1,700,000 habitants, devra payer pour frais d'occupation 32,104,289 fr., tandis que la Roumélie Orientale, dont la population est de 600,000 hommes, ne devra être imposée qu'en proportion de ses habitants, c'est-à-dire pour 11,330,925 fr.

Donc, au lieu de la somme sus-mentionnée et véritablement due, on nous réclame aujourdhui 23,000,000 fr. et même quelque chose de plus, parce que l'armée d'occupation, en Roumélie Orientale, s'est élevée à 26,800 hommes. On exige ainsi que chaque pays soit astreint indépendamment de sa population, à payer les frais d'occupation quel qu'ait été le nombre de soldats dont elle était composée. D'après cette théorie, s'il était venu à l'esprit du Chef de l'armée Russe de jeter, par exemple, dans notre province, 49,000 hommes, et n'en laisser en Bulgarie que 1,000, s'en suivrait-il que nous dussions supporter les conséquences onéreuses de ce caprice militaire? Nous ne le croyons pas. Et maintenant, faut-il que nous payions plus de 23,000,000 fr. sans proférer un seul mot, sans demander si l'on a légalement agi? Devons-nous payer cette somme parce qu'on a jugé urgent de faire camper parmi nous une armée de 26,800 hommes? D'ailleurs, que nous importe à nous si cela a été jugé nécessaire?

L'Article XXII, dans le cas présent, ne fait aucune distinction entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale; bien au contraire, il y est clairement établi que l'armée d'occupation, comprenant 50,000 hommes, sera entretenue aux frais du pays occupé. Maintenant, si ce pays occupé forme un tout indivisible au point de vue de l'occupation, il est, sous tous les autres rapports et administrativement parlant divisé en deux Etats indépendants, ayant une institution séparée, un mode de gouvernement différent et une gestion financière distincte. Par quel arrangement l'un de ces deux pays, le plus faible, payerait-il la plus grande partie des frais d'occupation? Est-ce juste que la petite Roumélie Orientale doive acquitter la moitié de l'indemnité, et la Bulgarie, trois fois plus peuplée et trois fois plus étendue, ne paye que l'autre moitié? Sommes nous plus riches que nos voisins, avons nous subi moins qu'eux des catastrophes pendant la dernière guerre, sommes nous moins épuisés, ou bien encore, l'occupation a-t-elle été décidée pour notre intérêt plus tôt que pour celui de nos voisins? Nous le répétons, nous ne saurions admettre aucun autre système de compensation pécuniaire légale que celui de payer la part qui nous revient, c'est-à-dire, 11,000,000 fr. ou 12,000,000 fr.

Mais encore une fois, où les trouverons-nous? C'est là une question qui a été plusieurs fois l'objet de longs débats de la part de la Commission Européenne, et, encore tout dernièrement, à l'une de ses dernières séances. Dans la réunion dont il s'agit, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, ayant à ce sujet pris la parole, a déclaré, à la fin de son discours, qu'à cause du mauvais état dans lequel se trouvent nos finances depuis le 3 Août de l'année dernière, époque où le Traité de Berlin a été ratifié, MM. les Délégués Européens ne peuvent trouver dans les ressources de la province le moyen de satisfaire aux frais d'occupation qui, d'après le Traité de Berlin, doivent grever les revenus provinciaux:—

"Je suis d'avis que cette question," a ajouté l'honorable orateur, "doit être examinée par l'Assemblée Provinciale qui, seule, a le pouvoir d'imposer les contributions additionnelles nécessaires pour le paiement des dits frais, et le résultat de cet examen devra être l'objet d'une négociation entre la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, et les autres Puissances signataires du Traité."

Nous ignorons quel a été le résultat final de cette discussion, mais nous pensons, dans tous les cas, que les paroles de l'honorable représentant d'Angleterre ont produit une certaine impression sur ses collègues et qu'elles ont été prises en considération.

Nous sommes loin de croire que la Russie, qui a généreusement versé le sang précieux de ses enfants pour nous assurer une existence politique libérale, daigne faire de cette somme, relativement minime pour elle, mais écrasante pour la Roumélie Orientale, une question de payement immédiat, et jeter ainsi dans des embarras

financiers les habitants et le Gouvernement de cette province. Nous pensons, au contraire, qu'aux bienfaits immenses qu'elle nous a rendus, elle ajoutera encore celui de nous faciliter le payement de l'indemnité, et, par ce nouvel acte de libéralité, elle montrera ainsi à l'Europe, d'une manière éclatante, ses bienveillantes dispositions envers la Roumélie Orientale.

TABLEAU des Frais d'Entretien du Corps d'Armée d'Occupation.

	Corps d'Armée.			Hôpitaux Divisionnaires Mobiles.			Total Général.
	Du 1er Août, 1878, au 1er Janvier, 1879.	Du 1er Janvier, 1879, au 1er Mai, 1879.	Total.	Du 1er Août, 1878, au 1er Janvier, 1879.	Du 1er Janvier, 1879, au 1er Mai, 1879.	Total.	
1. Traitement solde additionnelle de campagne et frais de fourrage pour généraux et officiers	3,284,440	2,612,020	5,896,460	82,592	65,880	148,472	6,044,932
2. Solde et argent pour le pot-au-feu des sous-officiers et soldats ..	3,695,360	2,989,000	6,684,360	98,069	78,188	176,248	6,860,608
3. Vivres des troupes—							
Pain	889,472	741,148	1,631,620	21,840	19,338	43,728	1,674,348
Gruaut	222,548	164,692	387,240	4,604	4,300	8,904	396,144
Eau de vie	119,530	95,340	214,870	3,125	2,490	5,615	220,485
Thé	11,822	6,578	18,300	832	156	988	19,188
Sucre	25,744	14,572	40,316	469	344	804	41,120
4. Nourriture des chevaux—							
Chevaux de front—							
Avoine	1,452,784	1,318,100	2,770,884	1,084	1,332	3,016	2,973,900
Pain	1,206,576	986,436	2,175,012	1,228	928	2,156	2,177,168
Paille	166,876	101,124	262,000	164	128	292	262,292
Chevaux de train—							
Avoine	585,684	467,028	1,052,712	50,448	40,336	90,784	1,143,496
Pain	1,033,748	274,500	1,307,248	89,228	71,148	160,376	1,467,624
Total	12,687,384	9,745,508	22,639,892	356,673	284,618	641,383	23,281,275

COMPOSITION du Corps d'Armée Russe d'Occupation pour la Roumélie Orientale.

CORPS D'ARMÉE.

Généraux	15
Officiers supérieurs	102
„ subalternes	1,010
Sous-officiers et soldats	25,000
Chevaux de selle	5,880
„ de train	2,500

HÔPITAUX DIVISIONNAIRES MOBILES.

Général	1
Officiers supérieurs	4
„ subalternes	12
Sous-officiers et soldats	651
Chevaux de selle	0
„ de train	216

Inclosure 19 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 148.)

Philippopolis, June 7, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose a list published by the "Maritza" of yesterday's date of nominations to the office of Departmental Prefects which have been made by Aleko Pasha subject to the approval of the Sultan.

Several of these names must already be known to your Excellency from the biographical Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Calvert and forwarded in my despatch No. 56 of the 12th ultimo.

M. Eksarko as Prefect of Philippopolis is likely to prove more incompetent than dangerous. I am told that some years ago he caused a pamphlet to be circulated among the Bulgarians urging them to proclaim him as their head, promising them among other advantages that all Bulgarians under his leadership should speedily

obtain wealth, and that all should enjoy for their consumption white instead of brown bread.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 20 in No. 293.

Extract from the "Maritza" of June 7, 1879.

DEPUIS la Constitution du Conseil Privé, MM. les Directeurs sont du matin au soir en séance sous la présidence du Prince-Gouverneur. Toutes les questions générales, et principalement la question de la milice, y sont soumises à un examen approfondi. Le Conseil a déjà arrêté son choix sur les noms des Préfets des six départements.

Sont nommés, sous la réserve de l'approbation de Sa Majesté le Sultan :—

M. Alexandre Eksarke, Attaché à l'Ambasssade Ottomane de Paris, Préfet du Département de Philippopoli.

M. Georges Bénieff, Ancien Chef du Caza de Tatar-Bazardjik, Préfet du Département du même nom.

M. Théophane Raïnoff, Ancien Chef du Caza de Karlovo, Préfet de Hasskeuy.

M. Nestor Markoff, Ancien Professeur, Préfet d'Eski-Zaghra.

M. Théodore Ikonomoff, ex-Inspecteur des Ecoles du Sandjak de Varna, Préfet de Slivno.

M. Ivantcho-Pétroff, ex-Président du Conseil d'Arrondissement de Bourgas, Préfet du Département du même nom.

Tous les Préfets sont des indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale.

Inclosure 21 in No. 293.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 149.)

Philippopolis, June 8, 1879.

Sir,

GENERAL VITALIS is making loud complaints of the manner in which he is being treated by the Governor-General's Council, and of the intrigues by which he is thwarted in the fulfilment of his duty as Commander of the militia and gendarmerie.

He alleges that the latter proceed from Colonel Kessiakoff, his predecessor.

On the other hand the members of the Council complain of the irregularity of the General's proceedings.

It appears that he had submitted to the Governor-General a list of appointments to be made in the militia, and that Aleko Pasha had approved of that list, and have embodied it in an "Order of the Day." At a meeting, however, of the Council held yesterday, General Vitalis produced, in a mutilated form, the Order of the Day in question, bearing the signature of the Governor-General; some names of officers recommended for employment having been struck out and others added.

The debate to which this incident gave rise was suddenly interrupted by the indisposition of the Governor-General, and it was, therefore, adjourned until to-morrow.

General Vitalis states, in justification, that he had submitted the nominations in haste, and, having subsequently discovered the true character of some of the officers who had been recommended to him, he had taken upon himself to amend the Governor-General's Order of the Day No. 2, the French text of which, I may add, began with the words: "Nous, Alexandre Vogorides, Gouverneur-Général, &c., décrétons, &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 22 in No. 293.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, June 4, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, as soon as the nomination of a Mussulman to the post of Kaïmakam, or Chef d'Arrondissement of Karnabad, was known to the Bulgarians of that province, they sent a long telegram to Aleko Pasha, declaring that if he came there as Governor they would shoot him (Mehmet Bey).

The majority of the population of the caza to which a Mussulman has been named is Bulgarian, the neighbouring Caza of Aïdos, in which a Bulgarian is named as Governor, contains a population in which the Turkish element is to the Bulgarian as five to one.

I am, however, certain that if a Turk were named to Aïdos, he would meet with the same resistance threatened by the Bulgarians of Karnabad.

The Bulgarians being determined, at least for the moment, to accept only such portions of the "Statut Organique" as they consider favourable to themselves, it would appear natural that the orders of the Governor-General should be carried out by force if necessary.

If any small district has the right of veto, the Governor-General's authority becomes simply nominal; if he tries to enforce his orders by means of the territorial militia, 99 per cent. of whom are Bulgarians, I have very good reasons for believing that, under the officers who now command them, the troops would refuse to act against their "brothers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 294.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No 49. Political.)

Trebizond, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to report in due time to your Lordship that a Commission had been sent here from Constantinople to examine the accounts of Dervish Pasha during his command at Batoum.

I am informed by very trustworthy persons that there are clear and overwhelming proofs incriminating Dervish Pasha and several officers, a few of whom have already been placed under arrest here.

However, the general impression is that Dervish Pasha, who seems to enjoy at the Porte an unenviable reputation for malversations, will get out of the present difficulty, and that the President of the Commission, Hadji Reshid Pasha, will have to suffer for his having too faithfully fulfilled the mission confided to him.

Persons who know the latter inform me that such is his own impression, but that he, nevertheless, wishes to conscientiously execute his duty, whatever the consequences may be for him.

As I am not myself far from thinking that the prevision in question may be realized, I consider it my duty, before departing on leave of absence, to report the foregoing circumstances, in order that your Lordship be acquainted with the merits of the case, should it happen that Hadji Reshid Pasha be unjustly persecuted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 295.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 149. Most Confidential.)

Athens, June 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 68, Political, of the 20th April last, and your Lordship's No. 50 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by a Greek gentleman of the highest character and position, in which he communicates to me interesting details of his negotiations with Abdul Bey Frassari and Mehmet Ali Bey Vrioni on some occasions when he acted as the secret agent of this Government in their endeavours to come to an understanding with the Albanians.

I beg to call your Excellency's particular attention to the paragraph which I have marked in the inclosure, which shows the real character of these two individuals, and supports the view entertained here that every Albanian has his price.

The details given have been corroborated to me from other and independent sources, and I have no doubt of their substantial truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 295.

M. Scouloudi to Mr. Corbett.

(Personnelle et Confidentielle.)

Athènes, le 31 Mai, 1879.

Cher M. Corbett,

JE viens de lire dans un journal de Constantinople que les deux Albanais qui s'étaient rendus à Rome, à Paris, et tout dernièrement à Berlin, pour protester contre l'annexion de Janina à la Grèce, se préparent à partir pour Londres afin de faire des représentations identiques auprès du Gouvernement de la Reine.

Je suppose que vous possédez déjà des renseignements suffisants sur ces deux individus, mais comme j'ai eu l'occasion de les connaître de près, et de causer longuement avec eux, je prends la liberté de vous communiquer certains faits lesquels pourraient peut être servir soit à votre Excellence, soit à Lord Salisbury, à la juste appréciation du but que ces deux Albanais poursuivent.

Depuis plusieurs années quelques Beys Tosques et Guègues manifestaient, par des agents confidentiels au Gouvernement Hellénique, le désir d'arriver à une entente en vue de se soustraire au pouvoir de la Porte; ils le prévenaient en même temps que des émissaires Italiens et Russes parcouraient la Guégarie faisant les uns et les autres de la propagande politique en faveur de leurs plans respectifs. Les Italiens, qui se servaient pour cela, et se servent encore, du bas clergé Catholique et de quelques Albanais élevés en Italie, les poussaient à se révolter, et leur promettaient tout l'appui de ce pays à la condition de s'unir au Royaume Italien; des Agents Russes, de leur côté, les excitaient également à la révolte, mais ils les poussaient surtout à s'unir avec les Monténégrins. Les avis que ces Beys donnaient alors au Gouvernement Hellénique étaient parfaitement vrais. Dans une conversation que j'ai eu à Milan au commencement d'Octobre dernier avec le Général Ignatieff, il m'a avoué spontanément qu'il n'avait négligé aucune ficelle—c'étaient là ses propres mots—"Pour faire réussir son grand plan, et qu'à part les Bosniaques, les Serbes, les Bulgares, et les Monténégrins, il avait également préparé les Arabes et les Albanais pour les lancer à la tête de la Turquie. Que dans ce but il s'était entendu avec des Albanais haut placés à Constantinople et avec d'autres Beys dans le pays même, mais que les Grecs de l'Epire lui ont gâté ses plans parce qu'ils n'ont pas voulu suivre ses conseils."

Et quant aux agents Italiens, nous savons par tout ce qui se passe actuellement en Epire, que les informations transmises alors à Athènes étaient exactes.

En Octobre 1877 les Beys, qui étaient en communication avec la Grèce, demandèrent l'envoi à Constantinople d'un agent pour établir une entente définitive; leurs demandes devinrent bientôt tellement pressantes que le Gouvernement Hellénique se décida au mois de Décembre de la même année d'entamer des pourparlers avec eux. Je fus donc envoyé à Constantinople, où je me trouvai en présence d'Abdul Bey Frassari, et de Mehmet Ali Bey Vrioni, qui étaient les Chefs et les représentants d'un Comité d'action composé de plusieurs Albanais Musulmans, occupant de hautes fonctions dans le service de la Turquie.

Les propositions que ces gens me firent étaient les suivantes:—

Ils étaient prêts, me déclarèrent-ils, à se détacher de la Turquie et à ériger leur pays en Principauté autonome, tributaire de la Grèce, et ayant la même forme de Gouvernement, c'est-à-dire, un Gouvernement Constitutionnel. Ils s'engageaient à prendre les armes les premiers, à former immédiatement un Gouvernement Provisoire, qui annoncerait à l'Europe leur indépendance; et ils demandaient qu'aussitôt cette déclaration faite, la Grèce les reconnût comme indépendants, et entrât en lice appuyée par eux pour conquérir la Thessalie et la Macédonie. Pour commencer l'exécution de ce plan ils ne demandaient ni argent ni armes; mais si, plus tard, la lutte devait se prolonger, ils demandaient que la Grèce prît l'engagement de leur fournir, à titre de

prêt, 20,000 à 30,000 Chassepôts et 4,000,000 fr. Seulement, pour devenir tributaires de la Grèce, et lui faciliter la conquête de la Thessalie et de la Macédoine, ils posaient la condition que la Grèce, tout en s'annexant l'Epire méridionale, renonçât tout-à-fait au district de Janina, et surtout à la ville de ce nom. Ils admettaient que la population de ce district était Grecque, qu'ils n'avaient aucun droit établi sur la contrée, "mais," prétendaient-ils, "la ville de Janina, surtout depuis Ali Pacha Tepelouli, a été considéré comme la capitale de l'Albanie, et ils espéraient que son acquisition serait un appât suffisant pour entraîner dans leur projets non-seulement les Beys les plus timides, qui ne voulaient pas encore prendre part au mouvement qui se préparait, mais tous les Albanais en masse." Parmi les raisons, plus ou moins mauvaises, que ces messieurs me donnaient pour justifier leurs prétensions sur le district de Janina, il y en avait une qui me parût trop caractéristique pour ne pas en faire mention. Abdul Bey m'a dit un jour, textuellement, ce qui suit:—"Je ne peux pas vous cacher que nous sommes excessivement ignorants et arriérés; nous n'avons pas de langue écrite; nous n'avons pas un seul Albanais capable d'administrer le plus petit village autrement que d'après les lois de son caprice. D'un autre côté, nous savons que parmi les Epirotes Grecs il existe un grand nombre, soit en Epire, soit en Grèce, de gens instruits, de juges, d'avocats, de médecins, et de lettrés qui nous sont indispensables pour former notre législation, administrer le pays, et organiser enfin notre existence Constitutionnelle. Les Grecs Epirotes, qui seront compris dans notre Albanie, ne seront pas seulement nos égaux; ils seront nos maîtres."

Je lui expliquai que je trouvais ses arguments fort peu logiques. Que réclamer la possession de Janina pour forcer par ce moyen les Epirotes distingués à se faire Albanais et à travailler au développement de la nouvelle Principauté me paraissait tellement absurde qu'il faudrait ignorer complétement et l'Epire et les Epirotes pour prendre la chose au sérieux. Du reste, je déclarai carrément aux deux Beys que le Gouvernement Hellénique ne consentira jamais à abandonner Janina pour quelque combinaison que ce fût, et que si jamais il se trouvait à Athènes un Cabinet assez inepte pour y consentir, les Janniates ne cesseront point de travailler à leur réunion avec la Grèce, laquelle de son côté les y aidera en toute occasion et par tous les moyens. Que puisque les Albanais connaissent si bien les vœux et les tendances des Epirotes c'était, à mon avis, une faute grave que de demander l'incorporation de Janina, d'une ville qui à elle seule représente l'Epire aux yeux des Grecs, car Janina serait une torpille dangereuse, toujours prête à éclater, attachée aux flancs de leur Albanie.

Là-dessus, espérant vaincre notre résistance au sujet de Janina, quelques membres du Comité Albanais proposèrent de mettre sur le Trône Princier de la future Albanie un de nos jeunes Princes. Mais cette proposition souleva une discussion très-orageuse au sein du Comité. Trois Grecques se déclarèrent en faveur d'un Prince Italien, deux Grecques en faveur d'un Prince Autrichien, et les Tosques avec un Grèque d'origine Byzantin, restèrent en faveur d'un Prince Hellène. Deux jours plus tard, en les voyant revenir sur la question de Janina, je leur déclarai considérant inadmissible toute discussion comprenant l'Epire, et que s'ils insistaient je serais obligé de mettre fin aux pourparlers. Ce que je fis en effet le 30 Décembre, 1877, et je partis de Constantinople le 1er Janvier, 1878.

La veille de mon départ Abdul Bey vint me voir et me tint ce langage: "Je regrette," me dit-il, "que le Gouvernement Hellénique montre tant d'obstination sur la question de Janina. Je vous avoue que pour ma part je n'y tiens pas de tant, mais il nous faut absolument cette ville pour pouvoir entraîner les masses Albanaises dans notre entreprise. Nous avons, il est vrai, beaucoup d'initiés parmi les Beys, mais le peuple n'en sait rien encore, et il nous faudra lui montrer quelque chose de brillant pour le décider à marcher au moment voulu contre les Turcs. Cependant, avec ou sans entente avec la Grèce nous sommes résolus à poursuivre notre but et à nous soustraire au pouvoir des Turcs que nous haïssons. L'occasion actuelle nous paraît très-favorable. Nous sommes en train ces jours-ci de signer une pétition adressée au Sultan. Dans cette pétition nous exposons:—"Que notre pays est en ce moment-ci menacé des trois côtés—par les Serbes, par les Monténégrins, et par les Grecs. Que nous ne pouvons pas nous laisser conquérir comme des femmes; que nous sommes décidés à nous défendre, et que nous prions Sa Majesté d'envoyer immédiatement en Albanie une armée suffisante pour la protéger efficacement contre le triple ennemi. Que si la Porte ne peut pas faire cela qu'elle nous donne alors 80,000 fusils et un Firman Impérial qui nous autorise à lever une armée Albanaise pour défendre nos contrées. De troupes la Porte ne pourra rien nous donner, puisqu'elle peut à peine déjà tenir tête aux Russes qui sont aux Portes de Sophia. De fusils elle nous en donnera un

certain nombre peut-être, mais ce qu'elle ne peut pas assurément nous donner, c'est le Firman que nous demandons, et surtout elle ne peut pas nous empêcher de retourner chez nous pour défendre nos foyers. Or, une fois munis de ce Firman, nous nous rendrons là-bas, nous convoquerons en toute liberté les Beys, nous nous entendrons définitivement sur tous les détails de notre plan, nous armerons le peuple, et tout sera dit. En fait de troupes il y a en ce moment 15,000 hommes en tout, en Epire et en Thessalie. Tous ces soldats sont Albanais; il n'y a de Turcs parmi eux que les officiers. Une même nuit, à la même heure, on s'emparera de tous ces officiers qui ne couchent même pas dans les casernes, et toute cette armée sera commandée le lendemain par des officiers Albanais. Un Gouvernement Provisoire se trouvera déjà formé et notre indépendance sera proclamée."

Cette pétition fut en effet remise au Grand Vizir quinze jours après mon départ; celui-ci, préoccupé de l'attitude des populations Chrétiennes de la Thessalie et de l'Epire, où la révolte avait déjà commencée, répondit aux Albanais que la Porte ne pouvait pas leur donner de troupes, parce qu'elle n'en avait pas, mais qu'elle leur donnerait des armes, et il les invita à retourner immédiatement chez eux pour préparer la résistance contre l'ennemi. Du Firman il ne faisait aucune mention, et, quant aux armes, il leur donnait 15,000 fusils Sniders. Les Albanais insistèrent pour le Firman et ne l'obtinrent qu'au commencement du mois de Février 1878. Ils firent alors savoir au Gouvernement Hellénique qu'ils étaient en route pour l'Albanie et le prièrent d'envoyer de nouveau un agent "espérant," disaient-ils, "que cette fois l'entente aurait lieu, puisqu'ils allaient nous faire des propositions essentiellement favorables à la Grèce.

Le Gouvernement m'envoya à leur rencontre et je les rejoignis à Corfou vers le 12 Février, 1878.

Ils m'annoncèrent avec beaucoup de satisfaction que la première partie de leur plan avait réussi; qu'ils avaient obtenu le Firman qui les autorisait à lever et à réunir une force armée; qu'ils allaient maintenant arrêter avec leurs amis tous les détails de la campagne; que d'un côté ils enverraient sous peu une députation à Constantinople pour demander une autonomie complète, tandis que de l'autre ils se préparaient en cas de refus à l'obtenir par les armes. Qu'ils tenaient absolument à avoir l'appui de la Grèce, et que pour cela ils lui abandonnaient Janina et toute l'Epire méridionale, de manière que la Principauté Albanaise ne comprendrait plus en Epire que le littoral occidental de cette province sur une ligne qui commencerait de Preveza, passerait par Parmyttria, Philiatès, Delvino, Delvinaki, Konitza, et aboutirait à Samarina restant toujours bien entendu (!) que la nouvelle Principauté serait sous la suzeraineté du Roi Georges. Je leur répliquai que la seule ligne acceptable par notre Gouvernement et encore comme concession maxima et seulement dans le cas ou certaines autres conditions seraient préalablement remplies par les Albanais, serait celle qui commençait du Cap Bregdet on Chimara, passerait par Delvine, Delvinaki, Camhos, Agyrokastron, Konitza, et aboutirait à Samarina, laissant à la Grèce tout le pays qui se trouve au-dessous de cette ligne.

Il ne me fut pas très-difficile de leur prouver que du moment où ils n'avaient pas Janina la prétension qu'ils avaient élevée sur cette bande de terre depuis Preveza jusqu'à Delvino était injustifiable, et que la possession de cette bande ne leur serait d'aucune utilité, puisqu'ils n'ont pas de marine, et ils n'en auront pas n'étant pas marins; et que d'un autre côté la Grèce, pour des raisons stratégiques de sa propre sureté, ne peut pas l'abandonner. Ils finirent par me dire encore que s'ils insistaient sur ce point c'était parce que dernièrement quelques Tchames (Abbedin Bey Durs) avaient pris part à leur Comité Central, et que pour faire plaisir à ces nouveaux adeptes, le Comité leur avait donné l'ordre de demander cette bande de terre en échange du district et de la ville de Janina.

Comme c'était à prévoir, les seconds pourparlers eurent le même résultat négatif que les premiers, avec cette différence, que les Albanais avaient spontanément abandonné leur prétension sur Janina et le district environnant.

Nous nous séparâmes vers le mi-Février (vieux style), et peu de jours après le Traité de Paix d'Andrinople était signé. Malgré cela les Albanais continuèrent leurs manœuvres, lesquelles consistaient à réunir tous les Beys et autres Primats en conciliabules tantôt à Berat, tantôt à Avlona, tantôt à Konitza, et sous prétexte de prendre des mesures pour se défendre contre l'ennemi du dehors, à préparer les esprits et les moyens nécessaires pour une révolte contre la Porte. Après le Traité de Berlin ils eurent un moment de découragement; et une lettre que je reçus ici au mois de Juillet dernier de la part d'Abdul Bey m'exprimait très-naïvement "le regret d'avoir manqué l'occasion à cause des retards et des difficultés que la Grèce avait mises à une

entendé." "Mais," ajoutait-il, "tout n'est pas perdu, et j'ai toujours bon espoir de réussir." En effet, ils ne tardèrent pas à reprendre courage et bientôt, mettant à profit les insinuations qui leur venaient de la Porte pour s'opposer à l'occupation de la Bosnie par les Autrichiens, ils formaient la fameuse "Ligue Albanaise." En apparence le but de la ligue était de s'opposer à la prise de possession des territoires concédés aux Serbes, aux Monténégrins, et aux Autrichiens; mais en réalité les aspirations de la ligue étaient de s'affranchir du pouvoir du Sultan et d'ériger en Principauté autonome et indépendante tous les pays où l'on parle l'Albanais.

L'armée Autrichienne trouva déjà que les forces de la ligue étaient beaucoup plus considérables dans les colonnes de certains journaux intéressés que sur le champ d'action. Mais la Porte, toujours mal renseignée sur les véritables intentions des Albanais, crut de nouveaux pouvoir s'en servir utilement lors des Conférences de Preveza. Vous connaissez l'activité avec laquelle Moukhtar Pacha appela auprès de lui la plupart des Beys Albanais, auxquels il répétait tous les jours que "la Porte est résolue à ne pas céder Janina si les Albanais de leur côté manifestent la résistance la plus vive à toute cession de l'Epire." Les Beys obéirent, comme de raison, et se mirent à faire du tapage; mais aussitôt les Conférences de Preveza terminées, ayant toujours en tête l'idée de se détacher de la Porte, et se voyant encouragés en cela par les Agents Italiens, Abdul Bey et Mehmet Ali Bey formèrent le projet de se rendre en Europe pour plaider auprès des Cabinets la cause de l'indépendance de l'Albanie. Moukhtar Pacha, loin de pénétrer leurs desseins, crut au contraire qu'ils allaient en Europe pour protester tout simplement contre la cession de Janina, et faciliter leur départ.

Cependant, à peine arrivés à Rome ces deux individus dévoilèrent dans leurs entrevues avec MM. Tornielli, Depretis, et Garibaldi, leurs véritables projets. Par les lettres d'Abdul Bey publiées dans "l'Ilora" et la "Politische Correspondenz," vous connaissez ce qui fut dit dans les entrevues. Ces publications ouvrirent à la fin les yeux de la Porte et du Sultan sur les intrigues de ces émissaires, et il est à espérer qu'on ne tardera plus à mettre fin à ce jeu Albanais, qui fut toléré jusqu'ici pour les besoins de la cause, mais qui risque de tourner contre l'autorité de la Porte.

Il serait important de noter ici que pendant qu'Abdul Bey et Mehmet Ali Bey cherchaient à remuer chez leurs compatriotes l'idée d'une Principauté Albanaise indépendante, ils faisaient savoir au Gouvernement Hellénique par un intermédiaire confidentiel, qui si la Grèce leur donnerait 5,000 livres comptant, si elle leur assurait une pension viagère et certains titres militaires, ils étaient prêts à prendre l'engagement "de persuader à leurs compatriotes non-seulement de ne pas s'opposer à l'annexion de l'Epire, mais encore de demander la réunion de la Guégarie à la Grèce. Cela se passait un mois avant les Conférences de Preveza. Le Gouvernement Hellénique, confiant à l'exécution intégrale du Protocole No. 13, refusa leurs offices, comme il refusa également une demande de 10,000 livres faite par Abbedin Bey dans le même but par l'entremise d'un de mes amis. Ces refus exaspérèrent ces messieurs; ils tournèrent alors les yeux vers l'Italie, laquelle, à ce qu'il paraît, leur offre un champ plus vaste pour une exploitation pécuniaire.

Il est à remarquer que quoique quelques Albanais lettrés commencent à parler d'Albanie, ils se trouvent fort embarrassés à la définir, car ils n'ont pas même de nom pour elle dans leur langue. Ils s'appelent entre eux "Skipetares" et se subdivisent en Guègues, en Tosques, et en Tchames; de là les contrées habitées par eux sont appelées "Guégaria," "Toskaria," et "Tchamouria." Bien plus, à part ces divisions phylétiques, ils ont des divisions traditionnelles qui sont très-profondes chez ces peuplades à demi-sauvages. Les Guègues, qui sont les plus incultes et les plus pauvres de tous, détestent cordialement les Tosques. Ceux-ci, qui appartiennent la plupart à la secte des Bektachis (une espèce de franc-maçonnerie religieuse) sont les plus intelligents de tous les Albanais, mais ils méprisent également les Guègues et les Tchames. Quant à ces derniers, ils sont considérés par leurs propres compatriotes comme des hommes sans courage, comme des vauriens n'ayant ni loi ni foi.

La masse des Albanais ne se soucie guère de Janina pas plus que leur unité nationale. Le sentiment de la nationalité manque complétement chez ce peuple, et à moins qu'on ne lui en fasse un, comme les Russes ont fait aux Bulgares, il se passera longtemps avant qu'il puisse comprendre le sens de ce mot.

D'un autre coté la possession de la ville de Janina—ville exclusivement Grecque—qui a été depuis plus de deux siècles le centre de l'Hellénisme de toute la Péninsule Illyrique, a une importance capitale pour la Grèce. On n'exagérerait pas en avançant que la possession de l'Epire entière serait moralement nulle, si la ville de Janina lui était enlevée. Située au centre de cette province elle en est réellement le cœur, vers

lequel tous les Epirotes ont les yeux tournés et auquel aboutissent presque toutes les voies de communication de la Thessalie avec l'Epire. Janina restant entre les mains des Turcs, la cession de l'Epire devient foncièrement neutralisée et anéantie. Les Grecs connaissent si bien cela qu'il ne me semble pas possible qu'ils se soumettent à se voir frustrés des Janina au risque des plus grands sacrifices.

Il est donc évident qu'aussi longtemps que cette question n'est pas résolue à la satisfaction de l'élément Grec, aucune entente avec la Turquie n'est possible, et le but que le Congrès de Berlin s'était proposé, c'est-à-dire l'alliance de ces deux éléments contre le Slavisme, sera inévitablement manqué. En outre, la paix de la Péninsule me paraît fort compromise, et si une complication, quelque peu sérieuse, éclate dans la Roumélie Orientale, dans la Macédoine, ou ailleurs, il sera fort difficile au Gouvernement Grec d'empêcher le pays d'en profiter pour chercher par les armes à prendre possession de Janina et du district homonyme. Si au contraire Janina est cédé à la Grèce, l'entente avec la Turquie sera facilement et immédiatement effectuée, et en cas d'un nouveau conflit avec les Bulgares ou les Russes, l'Hellénisme soutiendra les Turcs de toutes ses forces, car les Balkans sont la seule et dernière ligne de défense de l'Hellénisme aussi bien que des Turcs contre le plot envahissant des Slaves.

Mais à côté de ces considérations faites au point de vue Grec, il y'en a d'autres qui touchent aux intérêts de l'Europe. Si Janina est laissé à présent aux Turcs, les Albanais vont crier victoire, ils s'en empareront bien vite, et plutôt tôt que tard, et avec la possession de cette ville ils réussiront très-probablement à faire ce qu'ils n'ont pu faire jusqu'ici, c'est à dire à se constituer en Etat. Mais ainsi constitué cet Etat ne pourra être qu'un foyer de troubles continuels, car les Grecs ne sauront tolérer de voir passer sous une domination Albanaise ce qu'ils regardent à si juste titre comme leur pays. La tranquilité de l'Orient se trouvera donc constamment compromise, et dans la prolongation d'un pareil état de choses l'ambition et la convoitise des Puissances riveraines de l'Adriatique, déjà passablement excitées, trouveront un moyen de se satisfaire aux dépens des véritables propriétaires et des intérêts des autres Puissances en général.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) ET. SCOULOUDI.

No. 296.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 157.)
My Lord, *Athens, June* 8, 1879.

WITH reference to the telegram which I addressed yesterday to your Lordship, I now find that I was mistaken in stating that the Italian Minister sent a note to the Greek Government. He read to M. Delyanni a despatch from his Government in answer to the Greek Circular, and which invites the Greek Government to send a Plenipotentiary to Constantinople.

The other Representatives of Great Powers are not instructed to send a reply to the Circular, but merely to invite the Greek Government to send a Plenipotentiary to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 297.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Athens, June* 9, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that the Representatives of the Great Powers at Athens have, with the exception of Baron Plessen, the German Chargé d'Affaires, this day delivered to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs notes inviting the Greek Government to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople for the purpose of renewing the negotiations with the Porte for the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier.

The German Chargé d'Affaires had not been authorized to make a similar communication in writing, and he has telegraphed to his Government for permission to do

so. He expressed, however, verbally, the full concurrence of the German Government in the proceedings of the other Representatives of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 298.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Athens, June 10, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a conference of the Representatives of the Great Powers now in Athens was held yesterday in my house, and it was agreed that each of us should address to the Greek Government a note inviting them to send to Constantinople Plenipotentiaries to renew negotiations with those to be named by the Porte for the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier, the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople being instructed to exercise their mediation, if necessary, in order to bring the two parties to an understanding.

My French, Italian, and Austrian colleagues and myself accordingly drew up notes couched in the terms of the identical instructions we had received, with the exception that the two former stated that the presentation of their notes was in answer to the demand of the Greek Government for the mediation of the Powers—a statement which neither my Austrian colleague nor myself thought ourselves authorized to make, inasmuch as, the Greek Circular of the 10th/22nd March having been addressed to our respective Governments, it would be answered by them, or, if they had wished us to do so, we should have received definite instructions in that sense.

In the afternoon we waited in a body on M. Delyanni and presented to his Excellency our respective notes. The German Chargé d'Affaires (as I informed your Lordship in my telegram of yesterday), who was present, told M. Delyanni that his Government fully concurred in the step his colleagues had taken, but that he was not authorized to make the statement in writing, but he had telegraphed to Berlin for permission to do so. The Secretary of the Russian Legation delivered at the same time a note addressed to the Greek Government in the sense of our communications.

I have the honour to inclose copy of the note which I addressed to M. Delyanni, couched in the same terms as the note of the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, according to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 5th instant.

M. Delyanni said that he would submit to the Council of Ministers and the King the proposal for the renewal of negotiations which we had made in the name of our respective Governments, and would inform us of the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Mr. Corbett to M. Delyanni.

M. le Ministre, *Athens, June 9, 1879.*

THE Government of His Hellenic Majesty having, by their Circular of the 10th/22nd March last, requested the mediation of the Great Powers, according to the terms of Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Britannic Majesty's Government, desirous to give a proof of their friendship for Greece, after having been in communication with the Powers who signed the above-mentioned Treaty, have accepted the proposal of the French Government to ask the Greek Government and the Sublime Porte to name Plenipotentiaries, who should renew at Constantinople the negotiations for the rectification of the frontier between the two countries, and that the Representatives of the Great Powers accredited to the Sublime Porte should be instructed to exercise their mediation, if necessary, in order to ensure a successful issue, and I have, consequently, been instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to announce to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have adopted the view above mentioned, and, in conjunction with my colleagues, Representatives of the Great Powers in Greece, to request the Hellenic Government to name, with as little delay as possible,

Plenipotentiaries to go to Constantinople to renew, with the Plenipotentiaries to be named by the Porte, the negotiations in question.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) E. CORBETT.

No. 299.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Kyzanlik, June 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, in continuation of my despatch No. 26, that in the discussion on the settlement of the frontier at the Trojan Pass, the Russian Commissioner wished to restrict it to the watershed, on the ground that sufficient positions existed in rear. To this I replied that those positions were calculated for a small force only, and that the crest on which lies the watershed offered more suitable ground on which to develop a defensive force; I therefore claimed a concession to Turkey, which, though small in extent, afforded defensive advantage. The majority voted with me.

Yesterday, the 4th June, the Commission visited the Shipka Pass, and spent several hours in examining it. The ascent presents no other difficulty than the steepness of the road, which is broad and well made. At the discussion on it to-day, the view of what was needful for the defence which I had formed proved to be that of the majority, and was finally, after some contest, adopted unanimously. The cemeteries possess no military importance, and, at the request of the Russian Commissioner, were included within the Bulgarian frontier.

The Commission will be detained here over to-morrow, the 6th instant, as another regiment takes up the escort duty, and the new squadrons will not have arrived till to-morrow.

The progress of the Commission has been more rapid than had been calculated on, but I do not know how, in taking more time, the work could have been more effectually done. The result has hitherto been as advantageous to the defence of Turkey as could be desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 300.

Consul-General Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 19.*)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Brusa, June 8, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, translations of the Berats which have been granted to Captain Stewart, Captain Cooper, and myself.

I would beg to draw your Lordship's earnest attention to the terms of the Berats which limit the functions of myself and the Vice-Consuls to the ordinary Consular duty of watching over the interests of merchants travelling in the several vilayets.

It will be observed that the jurisdiction of Captain Stewart is limited to the Vilayet of Konieh, with residence at Konieh; and that of Captain Cooper to the Sandjak of Kaisarieh alone, though it was proposed (see my despatch No. 6 of the 22nd May) to assign to that officer the important Vilayet of Adana.

The Governors of the several vilayets are not likely to pay much attention to any observations which may be addressed to them, with reference to the reforms which the Porte is pledged to introduce, by the officers who have recently been appointed, when the Berats of those officers specify as their particular function the protection of mercantile interests. The limited jurisdiction granted to the officers will, I fear, somewhat interfere with their free employment in other districts of Anatolia.

Under these circumstances I cannot but feel that there will be considerable difficulty in carrying out the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 1 of the 24th April last, and I would beg to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, that more extended powers may be obtained for Captains Stewart and Cooper and for myself with reference to the Convention of the 4th June.

The delay, and consequent expense, since my arrival at Constantinople on the 2nd May have been already so great that I have decided to proceed to my post without waiting for more favourable Berats. In the meantime I have requested Her Majesty's Ambassador to obtain travelling Firmans for Captains Stewart and Cooper, and a Berat for Captain Cooper for the Vilayet of Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 300.

Imperial Berat issued to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson as Consul-General.

(Translation.)

THE English Embassy at Constantinople has informed us, by an official note, that the English Government has instituted a Consul-General to reside at Sivas, with Vice-Consuls under his supervision in the Vilayets of Huderendekyar and Angora, Konieh, Aidin, Adana, Sivas, and Castamouni, and in the Sandjaks of Ismidt and Biga and Djanyk, in order to watch over the affairs and interests of British merchants and other British subjects travelling in those parts, and that they have nominated Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., Consul-General, and Captain Harry Cooper Vice-Consul, to reside at Kaisarieh, and Captain John Donald Stewart, Vice-Consul, to reside at Konieh, and they have desired us to give the necessary Imperial Berats; therefore, after referring to the registers, seeing that it is written in the Treaty concluded between us and England that the English Ambassadors have the right to appoint Consuls in Aleppo, Alexandretta, Tripoli of Syria, and the islands, and Tunis, Tripoli of Barbary, Chio, Smyrna, and the Egyptian ports, and in other places of our well-protected Kingdom, and to change them without any hindrance, and to appoint others when they desire; the matter has been submitted to us and permission on this subject has been asked for. We therefore give this Imperial Berat in order that what is necessary may be executed according to the petition; and it has been given, together with the two Berats relative to the two Vice-Consulships above mentioned, and in accordance with the Imperial Treaties; and we have commanded that the above-mentioned Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., not being an Ottoman subject, is to have under his directions the Vice-Consuls in the above-mentioned vilayets and sandjaks, together with the two above-mentioned Vice-Consuls, being Consul-General; with residence at Sivas, in order to watch over the interests of British merchants and other British subjects travelling in those parts; and as long as he examines into these matters according to existing Treaties, let no hindrance or opposition be put in his way, but let all protection and respect be given to him; proceed to aid him in every way, and refrain from infringing existing Treaties.

15th day of Djemas-ul-Akhir, 1296.

Inclosure 2 in No. 300.

Imperial Berat issued to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson for the Vilayet of Sivas.

(Translation.)
(After the usual titles.)

To the Vali of the Vilayet of Sivas, Shureya Pasha, and to the Magistrate of the Caza of Sivas.

THE English Embassy in Constantinople having informed us that the English Government has instituted a Consul-Generalship at Sivas, and Vice-Consulships under its supervision in the Vilayets of Huderendekyar, Angora, Konieh, Aidin, Adana, Sivas, and Castamouni, and in the Sandjaks of Ismidt and Biga and Djanyk, in order to watch over the affairs and interests of British merchants and other British subjects travelling in those parts, and that the same Government has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., Consul-General at Sivas, and Captain Harry Cooper Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh, and Captain John Donald Stewart Vice-Consul at Konieh, and desiring in their note ("takrir") that we should give the necessary Imperial Firman. Therefore, in accordance with our glorious Edict, we have given one Royal Firman setting forth the Consul-Generalship of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., and two other Royal Firmans for Vice-Consulships.

Do you, therefore, who are Vali, and you who are Magistrate, when this our Imperial note reaches you, in accordance with the Royal Firman which has been given into the hand of the above-named Consul-General, afford him all protection, and make no opposition to the administration of his Consul-Generalship, proceed to give him all aid and assistance, in accordance with Imperial Treaties, and take measures conformably with the adjoined Berat.

15th day of Djemas-ul-Akhir, 1296.

Inclosure 3 in No. 300.

Imperial Berat issued to Captain Stewart for the Vilayet of Konieh.

(Translation.)
(After the usual titles.)

To the Vali of the Vilayet of Konieh, Akyf Pasha, and to the Magistrate of the Caza of Konieh.

UPON the arrival of this our Imperial note, let it be known that the English Embassy in Constantinople having informed us that the English Government has instituted a Consul-Generalship at Sivas, and Vice-Consulships under its supervision in the Vilayets of Huderendekyar, Angora, Konieh, Aidin, Adana, Sivas, and Castamouni, and in the Sandjaks of Ismidt and Biga and Djanyk, in order to watch over the affairs and interests of British merchants and other British subjects travelling in those parts, and that the same Government has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., Consul-General at Sivas, and Captain Harry Cooper Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh, and Captain John Donald Stewart Vice-Consul at Konieh, and desiring in their note ("takrir") that we should give the necessary Imperial Firman. Therefore, in the same way as we have issued one Imperial Firman setting forth the Consul-Generalship of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., and one setting forth the Vice-Consulship of Captain Harry Cooper, so do we now give this Imperial Firman setting forth the Vice-Consulship of Captain John Donald Stewart.

Do you, therefore, who are Vali, and you who are Magistrate, when this our Imperial note reaches you, know that Captain John Donald Stewart, not being a Turkish subject, is to be Vice-Consul, residing at Konieh, of the above-named Vilayets and Sandjaks, under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., Consul-General, and that he is to watch over the interests of British merchants and other British subjects travelling in those parts, and as long as he does that in accordance with existing Treaties you are to put no hindrance or opposition in his way, and, whilst bringing no Ottoman subject under his protection, take measures to afford him all aid and assistance, and avoid doing that which is in opposition to existing Treaties.

15th day of Djemas-ul-Akhir, 1296.

Inclosure 4 in No. 300.

Imperial Berat issued to Captain Cooper for the Sandjak of Kaisarieh.

(Translation.)
(After the usual titles.)

To the Vali of the Vilayet of Angora, Hourshid Pasha, and to the Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Kaisarieh, Hadi Pasha, and to the Magistrate of the Caza of Kaisarieh.

UPON the arrival of this our Imperial note, let it be known that the English Embassy in Constantinople having informed us that the English Government has instituted a Consul-Generalship at Sivas, and Vice-Consulships under its supervision in the Vilayets of Huderendekyar, Angora, Konieh, Aidin, Adana, Sivas, and Castamouni, and in the Sandjaks of Ismidt and Biga and Djanyk, in order to watch over the affairs and interests of British merchants and other British subjects travelling in those parts, and that the same Government has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., Consul-General at Sivas, and Captain Harry Cooper Vice-Consul at Kaisarieh, and Captain

John Donald Stewart Vice-Consul at Konieh, and desiring in their note ("takrir") that we should give the necessary Imperial Firman. Therefore, in the same way as we have issued one Imperial Firman setting forth the Consul-Generalship of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., and one setting forth the Vice-Consulship of Captain John Donald Stewart, so do we now give this Imperial Firman setting forth the Vice-Consulship of Captain Harry Cooper.

Do you, therefore, who are Vali, and you who are Mutessarif, and you who are Magistrate, when this our Imperial note reaches you, know that Captain Harry Cooper, not being a Turkish subject, is to be Vice-Consul, residing at Kaisarieh, of the above-named vilayets and sandjaks, under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, R.E., Consul-General; and that he is to watch over the interests of British merchants and other British subjects travelling in those parts, and, so long as he does that in accordance with existing Treaties, you are to put no hindrance or opposition in his way, and, whilst bringing no Ottoman subject under his protection, take measures to afford him all aid and assistance, and avoid doing that which is in opposition to existing Treaties.

15th day of Djemas-ul-Akhir, 1296.

No. 301.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 48. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 12, 1879.*

IT will be within your Lordship's recollection that, in endeavouring to carry out the instructions conveyed in your No. 13 of the 28th March (my general instructions), with reference to that portion of the frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan, I conceived it to be my duty, in accordance with a request from his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha, to forward a Memorandum embodying certain remarks which occurred to me with regard to the project of frontier submitted to the Turkish and Russian Governments by their respective Commissioners. A copy of that Memorandum was forwarded to your Lordship in my No. 23 of the 22nd April.

In consequence of the reluctance of the Ottoman Commissioners to consider their project of frontier, and on finding that Carathéodory Pasha was rather inclined to support his officers, I sought another interview with his Excellency, at which I pointed out the extreme importance which Her Majesty's Government attached to this part of the frontier and, as reported in my No. 35 of the 10th May to your Lordship, prepared and forwarded, through his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, a second Memorandum, in which I supported the remarks contained in my first Memorandum by more detailed arguments.

His Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, when forwarding that Memorandum to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, was at the same time pleased to give the weight of his recommendation to it.

I learn to-day from my Turkish colleague, Shefat Bey (who has been most loyal throughout in warning me of any change in the situation), that yesterday a meeting was held at the Seraskierate (Prince Labanoff, Carathéodory Pasha, and the Russian and Turkish Commissioners being present), at which it was decided that on Saturday next, the 14th instant, a meeting should be held at which the frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan should be reconsidered.

My Turkish colleague informs me that he feels that all the new Turkish Generals (Ghazi Osman Pasha, Samih Pasha, Edhem Pasha, Akif Pasha), whose duty it has been to consider my Memoranda with reference to the project of frontier, that all of them are convinced of the justice of my representations as to the unnecessary loss of territory which Turkey would sustain were the projected frontier ratified by the Turkish Government. Whether or not the Russians will agree to disgorge the plunder which they have secured under that project, remains to be seen, but I confess to your Lordship that, although I am not without hope that something may yet be retrieved, I am not very sanguine of the result of Saturday's meeting.

Although I believe that no one except Carathéodory Pasha knows who wrote the two Memoranda, as I purposely never signed them, I have been unable to conceal the circumstance from my Turkish colleague, as, in fact, it would have been impossible to do so, as he knows my opinions too well. I trust, however, that the authorship of the Memoranda will not be allowed to transpire, as the knowledge of the fact by the

Russians might disturb the friendly relations which I hope will subsist between my new Russian colleague (General Zelensy) and myself, directly the Karaourgan incident is settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 302.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, June 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11, Political, of the 17th March, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Lodygensky has now been recognized by the local authorities as Russian Consul for Bosnia. As in my own case, no exequatur has been given, but the matter has been arranged, as M. Lodygensky informs me, by an exchange of notes between the Russian Ambassador at Vienna and the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 303.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 355. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 14, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has been for some days suffering from an inflammation of the lungs, and does not at present see even the Under-Secretaries.

His views with regard to the position of the East Roumelian Commission have been telegraphed to Count Kirolyi for communication to your Lordship, and it is, therefore, unnecessary for me to repeat them from memory.

In your Lordship's letter to Count Montgelas of the 2nd instant you expressed a doubt whether the Commission could properly be allowed to remain more than a few weeks longer at Philippopolis, and I understood it also to be Count Andrassy's opinion that it will be desirable to let it expire as soon as the Russian evacuation has taken place, and that all questions admitting of delay should be left for decision till after that has been effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 304.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 356.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 14, 1879.*

BARON CALICE informs me that Count Andrassy will proceed exactly as your Lordship proposes to do, in notifying to Prince Alexander the appointment of an Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria, in a letter in every respect similar to the one of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch to me No. 370, Confidential, of the 5th instant.

No one has yet been selected for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 305.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 359.)

Vienna, June 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Colonel Primrose, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.

Vienna, June 11, 1879.

Sir,

I MENTIONED to you on the 8th instant that it was probable that the movements of Austro-Hungarian troops foreshadowed in a communication that appeared in the "Times" newspaper of the 4th June would not take place for a month. I have now the honour to inform you that I understand that they will not occur till the end of July, and only then if the arrangements now in hand of the Turkish and Austrian authorities for the provision and supply of such a fresh dislocation of troops be by that time conveniently completed.

At the present moment the Austro Hungarian detachments—face to face with a fanatic population—find themselves in a somewhat perplexing position.

It appears that the Minister of War not having been consulted by Count Andrassy before the Convention with the Turkish Government was definitely arranged, not sufficient regard has been paid in the detail of that agreement to the purely strategical views of the case, and the posts of the Austrians, pushed on as far as Priepolje, at the extremity of a thin line of communication with their base at Visegrad on the Drina, have threatening them in their rear a strong position at Plevje (otherwise Taslidzje) in the possession of numerous and hostile inhabitants.

This Plevje is on the direct road from Serajevo to Novi-Bazar, if a track on which carriages have to be carried by their occupants, in consequence of the impossibility of traction, can be called by that name.

Efforts are now being made to improve the communications, however, by way of Foca, where a bridge is to be constructed, but though the plans and elevations of this design have been carefully prepared, want of funds has prevented any further progress with it.

Foca, Visegrad, and Gorazda have been selected as points where magazines are to be made and supplies collected. The further advance of troops depends on the rapidity and efficiency with which this can be done, and here, again, economy steps into notice as the first consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD PRIMROSE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 306.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 19.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 19 Juin, 1879.

LE Gouvernement Servien a adressé le $\frac{17}{30}$ Mai aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin une Circulaire pour demander que la Commission de Délimitation soit autorisée à réviser son travail de l'an dernier en annexant à la Servie, du côté de Vranja, une certaine étendue de territoire qu'il juge nécessaire à sa sécurité, et en traçant vers le nord-ouest une nouvelle ligne-frontière. Il nous semble impossible que la démarche du Gouvernement Servien rencontre un accueil favorable près des Grandes Puissances. Il ne s'agirait rien moins que de modifier les dispositions du Traité de Berlin, et une pareille demande porte avec elle sa condamnation, et ne saurait même

faire l'objet d'une délibération de la part des Puissances. En effet, les sacrifices territoriaux qui ont été demandés à l'Empire Ottoman en faveur de la Servie atteignent leur limite extrême, et il est évident que si l'on pouvait revenir sur les stipulations définitives du Traité de Berlin, il appartiendrait plutôt à la Sublime Porte qu'à la Servie de demander à recouvrer profit des rectifications de frontières, justifiées sur des raisons politiques et géographiques incontestables.

Quant aux actes de brigandage signalés dans la note de M. Ristich, il est évident que le Gouvernement Servien s'est appliqué à dénaturer et à en exagérer l'importance pour donner quelque poids à sa démarche. Il y a eu sans doute des actes d'agression commis dans les districts limitrophes; mais ces entreprises coupables, qui n'ont pas eu l'importance qu'on cherche à leur donner, ont été commises tantôt par des maraudeurs qui n'étaient que des anciens habitants des territoires cédés à la Servie, et que les rigueurs des autorités Serviennes avaient réduits à l'expatriation et au désespoir, tantôt par des maraudeurs Serviens tant sur notre territoire que sur celui de la Principauté. Nos griefs sur ce point sont réciproques. Ces incidents regrettables sont la conséquence de la guerre et ne se reproduiront point le jour où des deux côtés de la frontière on maintiendra des forces suffisantes pour empêcher de part et d'autre toute incursion. Les autorités Ottomanes ont prescrit déjà toutes les dispositions nécessaires à cet égard. Si elles n'ont pas eu partout toute l'efficacité voulue, c'est que le Gouvernement Servien n'a pas réuni sur les points exposés à ces attaques des troupes en nombre suffisant.

Je vous prie de faire part de ces considérations à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, afin de le disposer à refuser tout appui au Gouvernement Servien dans ses prétentions, vraiment inadmissibles.

No. 307.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, June 18, 1879.

RUSSIAN Ambassador at Constantinople has telegraphed to Russian Minister at Belgrade that, as regards the demand of Servia, Bulgarian frontier work assigned to Servian Commissioner will have to be forwarded to Bulgarian Commissioner, neither for revision nor approval, but merely to complete task assigned to latter.

No. 308.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, June 18, 1879.

TELEGRAM just received from Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner informs me that Commission has finished [?] delineation of Servian-Bulgarian frontier.

No. 309.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.)

Belgrade, June 18, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has confidentially read me extract from a private letter from Prince Milan relative to return of Albanians to Servia. His Highness objects to indiscriminate readmission of Albania, but suggests that, at the request of the Porte, an exception might be made in favour of those who are peaceably disposed, and have neither borne arms against Servia nor emigrated of their own accord at the expense of the Servian Government.

(Above communicated to Sir H. Layard.)

No. 310.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 484. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, June 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatches and private letter of yesterday, Grand Vizier had a long explanation yesterday with Sultan, with which he tells me he is satisfied. His Highness says he has no intention of parting either with Haireddin or Carathéodory, nor of recalling Mahmoud Nedim to power.

No. 311.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 260.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 247 of the 31st ultimo, I have to state to you that I entirely concur in the propriety of your view of the course which the Porte should take in order to fulfil the requirements of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 312.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 795.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.

THE grounds on which objections have been raised by Carathéodory Pasha to the appointment of Mr. Michell, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopolis, as Assistant British Commissioner on the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, and which formed the subject of your Excellency's despatch No. 459, Confidential, of the 5th instant, appear to Her Majesty's Government, as they have done to your Excellency, to be ill-founded.

The Porte would be perfectly justified in declining to issue an exequatur to Prince Tzeretelew as Russian Consul-General in the province, should such a course be deemed by it advisable, on the ground that he would not be a "persona grata" to the Sultan, and the advice offered by your Excellency in the matter to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs appears to Her Majesty's Government to have been reasonable and proper.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 313.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 798.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.

IN my telegram No. 95 of the 9th instant and my despatch No. 772 of the same date, I have requested your Excellency to urge upon the Porte the expediency of giving such orders to the Turkish authorities at Scutari and in the districts on the frontier of Montenegro as will enable the European Commission for the demarcation of the boundary line to continue its operations without hindrance.

I now transmit a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Sale on the reasons of the delay which is attending the proceedings of the Commission, and I should wish you to bring to the earnest attention of the Turkish Government the considerations put forward in this despatch, and the necessity of giving instructions to the Turkish Members of the Commission in the sense indicated by Captain Sale.

I also inclose copies of a despatch from Carathéodory Pasha, which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, on the subject of

the questions which have arisen in the Commission, and of the note which I have addressed to Musurus Pasha in reply to this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 314.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 799.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.

I HAVE to convey to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the *note-verbale* you have addressed to the Porte upon the proceedings of the Commission sent to inquire into the condition of affairs in Zeitoun, and of which a copy accompanied your Excellency's despatch No. 463 of the 5th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 315.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 800.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.

I HAVE received the copies of Mr. Michell's despatches Nos. 119 and 120 of the 30th ultimo, forwarded as inclosures with your Excellency's despatch No. 466 of the 6th of this month, in which he gives the details of conversations he has had with Aleko Pasha and with other influential persons upon the policy hitherto pursued and the line of conduct to be followed in the future by the Governor-General in his administration of the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

I have to request that your Excellency will inform Mr. Michell that I entirely approve his language as reported in these despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 316.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 777.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.

AT an interview which I had with the Count de Montebello on the 10th instant he spoke to me with reference to the position of the Western Powers towards Roumania. He said that, according to the information received by the French Government, the disposition of the Roumanian authorities was by no means friendly to the Treaty of Berlin; and considerable doubt existed whether they would consent to any sincere fulfilment of its provisions.

Count Montebello stated that M. Waddington was of opinion that a serious guarantee for the execution of its provisions should be exacted before the recognition of the three Western Powers was accorded. He said that Italy appeared to have given her recognition in a somewhat circuitous manner, by sending a Chargé d'Affaires to Bucharest.

I said, in reply, that I agreed with the French Government in thinking that we must obtain some palpable guarantee of the intentions of the Roumanian Government before recognizing the independence of Roumania, but I thought it would be well not to be too exacting; because if we were really running counter to the popular sentiment in Roumania, we might find that the Government preferred to dispense with our recognition rather than offend their own constituents; and in that case the Western Powers would be put in a somewhat helpless and absurd position.

It appeared to me, I said, that the wisest thing the Powers could do would be to agree among themselves at once, upon the exact terms, in detail, which they looked upon as indispensable, and to communicate them quite privately to the Roumanian

authorities. If they were not conceived in too exacting a spirit, I thought it possible they might be satisfied.

The idea of the Roumanian Government dispensing altogether with the recognition of the Western Powers appeared to the Count de Montebello to be a new one; and he promised to consult his Government with reference to my proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 317.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 60.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 130, 136, and 144 of the 1st, 5th, and 9th instant respectively, forwarding copies of the correspondence which has passed between you and M. Ristich in regard to the application made by the Servian Government for a modification of the frontier as determined by the European Commission in the neighbourhood of Vranja, and for the settlement of that portion of the frontier-line which has not already been fixed in such a manner as to give to Servia the means of defence against incursion or attack from the population in the bordering territory.

I should wish you to inform M. Ristich, in reply to his last communication, that his representations have received the careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government, who are anxious that the settlement provided by the Treaty of Berlin should be carried out in a manner equitable and satisfactory to all the parties concerned, and so as to remove the occasion or opportunity for future conflicts. The instructions to Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the new Servian frontier were conceived in this sense. Her Majesty's Government have received a report from the officer who is appointed to assist their Commissioner, showing that the frontier assigned to Servia in the neighbourhood of Vranja is such as to give to the Principality a good and sufficient defensive position, and they have no doubt that the efforts of their Commissioner will be directed to securing to Servia the proper means of defence in that portion of the boundary which remains to be traced, so far as this can be done without departing from the stipulations of the Treaty, or unfairly weakening the position of the conterminous Power.

You may add that copies of M. Ristich's communications, and of this reply, will be forwarded to Major Anderson for his information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 318.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches Nos. 132 and 133 of the 2nd instant.

WITH reference to the Memorandum which, under certain eventualities, you propose to lay before the Servian Government, in support of the wish expressed by the Albanian Borderpopulation to be permitted to return to their homes, which the late war had compelled them to abandon, I have to state to you that I should wish you to withhold the presentation of such a Memorandum until Her Majesty's Government have had the opportunity of informing themselves on the nature of the decision which may be taken by the Servian Government in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 319.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 80.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, forwarding copy of a Circular addressed by the Turkish Government to the Great Powers on the subject of the ill-treatment to which the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria are subjected.

The same communication and the petition from the Mussulmans of Varna and Frascati which was inclosed in it have also reached Her Majesty's Government through the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, with a despatch from Carathéodory Pasha, of which a copy is inclosed.

You have also received in my despatches No. 74 of the 5th instant and No. 85 of this day's date, copies of despatches from Sir H. Layard, forwarding petitions from Mussulman refugees from Sophia as to the difficulty they find in disposing of their property there and in recovering it on their return.

I should wish you to bring these complaints to the knowledge of the Bulgarian authorities, and to urge that effective measures should be taken for the redress of the hardships to which the Mussulmans appear to be subjected. It would have a very unfortunate effect if the inauguration of the new system of government in the Principality were accompanied or followed by the publication of petitions and memorials tending to show that the present treatment of the Mussulman population there was of the same kind which has been so severely condemned when practised by Mahommedans towards the native Christians.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 320.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 26 of the 31st ultimo, in which you report the proceedings of the Bulgarian Frontier Commission up to that date.

I have to communicate to you the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learned the progress made by the Commission, and their approval of the part you have taken in its operations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 321.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1879.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch and its inclosures, which have been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, relative to questions which have arisen in the Commission of which you are a member in consequence of alleged inaccuracies in the Austrian Staff Map. The Porte proposes in consequence that the Commission should make a general reconnaissance and a regular topographical survey of the ground which the Powers should take as a basis for the discussion of the questions at issue.

I also inclose a copy of the note which I have addressed to Musurus Pasha in reply to this communication.

I shall be glad to receive from you any observations which may occur to you upon the despatch from Carathéodory Pasha, or the Memorandum inclosed therein.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 322.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

Philippopolis, June 19, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

COMMISSION. Greeks having addressed petition to Commission, appealing to it for redress in regard to neglect of their rights under Article 21 of the Organic Statute, I propose, as President, to convoke Commission and submit motion expressing opinion that those rights have not been sufficiently taken into account in nominations to Council and other posts, such an opinion to be forwarded to Governor-General.

I propose also to submit motion calling attention of the Governor-General to the urgency of carrying out Article 379 of Statute.

The result of latter would supply valuable statistics of the population, establishing proper basis for reorganization of the militia.

Austrian colleague concurs in desirability of this course, and thinks a majority may be obtained. French Commissioner expects daily the instructions for which he has asked respecting functions of Commission.

No. 323.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 485.)

Therapia, June 19, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum, dated yesterday:—

"Russian Consul-General returned yesterday. Frontier dispute [? at Ottl] amicably adjusted. Serious disturbance reported among Mulki Kurds in the Van Province."

No. 324.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 486.)

Therapia, June 20, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

AT a meeting of the Representatives of the Powers yesterday, it was decided to address identic notes to Porte, inviting it to name Plenipotentiaries to meet Greek Plenipotentiaries for the settlement of the frontier question. They will be [? sent] by next messenger in (*sic*) to-morrow.

No. 325.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 487.)

Therapia, June 20, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Mr. Michell's telegram of 19th, I have agreed with French Ambassador to send General Dickson, with Captain Torey, to Philippopolis, to endeavour to arrange difficulties respecting gendarmerie caused by incompetency of Vitalis, which is now fully recognized by the French Ambassador.

(Sent to Consulate-General at Philippopolis.)

No. 326

Colonel Sikarne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

Galatz, June 20, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my letter of the 30th ultimo, the Commission has made an advance to the Porte of 1,027,000 fr.

I will report further by letter.

No. 327.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Damascus, June 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Sublime Porte, reporting upon the late general elections and the adjudication of the tithes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 327.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Damascus, June 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the general elections of the judicial and administrative Medjlisses throughout the country have just taken place.

They have excited more than ordinary interest from the fact that, despite the regulations which enjoin a yearly change of half the members of the Courts, no elections had taken place for four years.

This long duration of office, which may, perhaps, partially explain the very unsatisfactory past working of the Tribunals; and the rivalry of the various communities for representative seats in them, have much exercised the educated minority of the people as to the choice of members chosen by the Electoral Committees.

Although the number eligible for nomination by reason of local standing and influence is much restricted in this particular district, those members who have been returned are held by the public voice to possess generally better qualifications than their predecessors. Midhat Pasha, who presided over the Electoral Committees, exercised considerable pressure to secure the return of competent and impartial men.

It may, therefore, be hoped that some improvement will follow the reconstruction of the Courts; especially if it should be found that their labours are properly directed by the Presidents who virtually rule them.

The adjudication of the tithes is now taking place throughout the vilayet; and I am happy to be able to report a probable considerable aggregate increase of revenue under this head, notwithstanding the partial failure of crops, owing to deficient rainfall in certain important districts.

The biddings have, speaking generally, improved 50 per cent. over those of last year, and are not yet closed. This is due to the energy and personal control of his Highness, and to his action in doing away with the time honoured practice of former authorities of selling the tithes of entire districts to favoured rings of speculators, the magnitude of which operations prevented the competition of smaller capitalists to the loss of the fisc and proportionate profit of officials and speculators.

This practice brought the peasantry face to face with those who had become possessed, by the often repeated process of subletting, of the right to the tithe, and who naturally reemped themselves for the enhanced price entailed by the original contract having changed hands perhaps half-a-dozen times. This now is changed, the law formerly ignored, of allowing each village to bid for its own tithes is being carried out. Each village is put up separately to auction, and the peasantry are encouraged to bid against the public, a facility which they generally gladly avail themselves of.

Where the tithes are adjudicated to the village the usual guarantee is not required, the village community, in the person of its deputy, being held as sufficient security for proper payment. The advantage to the Government and to the peasantry is too apparent to need comment.

On this subject of tithes I may be permitted to note my observations in Palestine last summer. There, as formerly here, a district embracing a number of villages was put up to auction, not, however, to favoured rings, but to honest competition. The rivalry of speculators often, unfortunately, resulted in the tithes being adjudicated at

prices far beyond the most favourable estimate of yield. The consequences were that the Government often lost by the insolvency of the tithe-farmers whose guarantees were seldom entirely solvent; the peasantry, on the other hand, being muleted in an amount which far surpassed the rapacity of the tithe-farmer in normal time by reason of the pressure put upon the latter by the authorities to keep him to his engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 328.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 35. Consular.)
Jeddah, June 7, 1879.

My Lord,

IT is with deep regret I have to report the sudden death of the Governor-General of the Hedjaz.

His Excellency had been slightly unwell for several days, but so slightly that within ten minutes of his death he was transacting business. He died at about 1 o'clock to-day, and at 3 o'clock he was buried.

This hurry to get the remains under ground was quite uncalled for, and has been commented on.

Hafet Pasha was working earnestly to improve this town and to reduce the administration to order. His energy won him no friends amongst the ruling classes, to whom disorder proves lucrative, and they rejoice at his death. The country has lost a good man, and I fear it will be difficult to find a successor who will devote himself to the true interests of Jeddah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 329.

Captain Sale to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 11.)
Scutari, Albania, June 10, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of despatch No. 13 of the 20th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a telegraphic despatch from Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha on the subject of the island of Gorica Topal.

Your Lordship's telegraphic instructions on that subject have already been received and acted on; but I have the honour to remark that the telegraphic despatch from Carathéodory Pasha does not convey correctly the actual facts of the case.

It would be inferred from the telegraphic despatch that the Commission decided against the Turks in the matter of Gorica Topal, relying wholly on the correctness of the Austrian Staff Map.

This, however, was far from being the case. I myself strongly insisted on the necessity for establishing, by local inquiry, the identity of the island designated as Gorica Topal on the Staff map with the island so named in the text of the Treaty of Berlin.

It was not until the spot had been visited, and local inquiry had been made, that the Commission decided against the Turkish claim.

Protocol No. 4, which has already been sent to your Lordship, gives the whole matter in detail. It will be seen from this Protocol that the Turkish Commissioners had no valid reasons for withdrawing from the demarcation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Commissioner.

No. 330.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 271.)
Rome, June 17, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's attention may perhaps have been drawn to the inclosed letter, bearing the date of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Rome, April 6, 1879, signed P. Corte, and addressed to Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha, Prevesa, which appeared in the "Daily News" of the 13th instant.

I have thought it my duty to bring it before M. Depretis, to whom I stated, as my reason for doing so, that such a letter, bearing all the semblance of being written by official authority, or at least cognizance, could not fail to strengthen the suspicions which were entertained in some quarters as to the policy which the Italian Government was following in Albania, and, in short, to compromise the Italian Government in the eyes of foreign Governments.

M. Depretis, in thanking me for this communication, informed me that the letter had already been brought under his notice. His Excellency expressed the greatest indignation both with the letter itself and with the writer of it, whom he intimated it was his intention to call to a severe account for his indiscretion.

Signor P. Corte, M. Depretis said, had been Consul at Prevesa, but was now removed to another locality, his Excellency could not remember where. He had been in Rome after leaving Prevesa, and his Excellency presumed that, calling some day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, he must have taken a sheet of paper bearing the printed address, "Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Roma," to have written his letter to Moukhtar Pasha. It was, however, an entirely private letter, written without any knowledge or authority on the part of the Ministry; and his Excellency begged me to declare to your Lordship that he absolutely and entirely repudiated and disavowed, on the part of the Italian Government, the sentiments which it expressed.

It has occurred to me whether possibly a knowledge of the existence of this letter may constitute one of the proofs possessed by Carathéodory Pasha of the intrigues being carried on by Italy in Albania, with the view of preparing the way for the eventual annexation of that province, as stated in Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 380, Very Confidential, of the 7th May, and upon which I ventured to offer some observations in my despatches No. 263, Confidential, and No. 266, Very Confidential, of the 9th and 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Extract from the "Daily News" of June 11, 1879.

ITALY AND TURKEY.—The following letter, the great interest attaching to which will at once be seen, has been sent to us for publication:—

"A son Excellence le Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha, Preveza.

"Excellence, "*Ministero degli Affari Esteri, Rome, le 6 Avril*, 1879.

"Depuis longtemps j'aurais voulu remercier votre Excellence des bontés qui a (*sic*) eu envers moi pendant mon séjour à Preveza, mais j'ai voulu attendre jusqu'à ce que j'aurais pu vous annoncer un revirement presque complet des vues des Cabinets et de la presse Européenne à l'égard de la question Grecque que la Sublime Porte a eu la bonne inspiration de confier aux soins de votre Excellence.

"L'opinion publique à Rome est déjà complétement changée, grâce à plusieurs articles que mes amis publièrent sur (*sic*) les journaux dont je m'empresse de vous en envoyer copie, avec la traduction Française du Don Guisciotto que votre Excellence désirait avoir. J'ai fait mention de vos projets d'amélioration, d'immigration, et de la colonisation en Epire, au Ministère, et tout le monde est prêt à favoriser vos idées à peine que la question Grecque en Thessalie soit finie. Cependant il est bien vrai qu'il reste encore l'autre bien plus grave de l'occupation de Novi-Bazar par l'Autriche, mais j'espère que la Turquie ne se décidera jamais à céder la clef de l'Albanie et de la Bosnie à une Puissance dont les desseins de s'emparer de la ligne du chemin de fer qui va à Salonique sont desormais connus par tout le monde.

"Pour neutraliser dans une juste mesure l'influence de l'Autriche en Albanie il serait peut-être très-avantageux à la Turquie et à l'Italie de créer une ligne de bateaux à vapeur qui, partant de Bari, toucherait ensuite les ports de Durazzo, Vallona, Corfu, Sejada, Parga, et Preveza.

"Je crois que la Compagnie Italienne de Floris se chargerait de ce service en coincidence avec les bateaux provenant de Constantinople, si toutefois elle pouvait compter sur la subvention que la Turquie donne maintenant au Lloyd Autrichien, qui fait un service postal très-irrégulier. Je souhaite, pour le bien du vilayet de Janina, que votre Excellence reste longtemps Commandant-en-chef de l'armée de l'Epire, et en me rappelant à votre bon souvenir, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) "P. CORTE.

"P.S.—Si son Excellence Constant Pacha se trouve encore à Preveza, je vous prie de lui présenter mes respects ainsi qu'à sa très-gentille dame."

(Translation.)

"To his Excellency Moukhtar Pasha, Prevesa.

"Excellency, "*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, April 6*, 1879.

"For a long time I have desired to thank your Excellency for the kindness you showed to me during my stay in Prevesa, but I wished to wait until I could announce to you an almost complete change in the views of the Cabinets and of the European press with regard to the Greek question, which the Sublime Porte, by an excellent inspiration, has confided to the care of your Excellency.

Public opinion in Rome has already completely changed, thanks to several articles which my friends have published in the journals, copies of which I send you, with the French translation of "Don Quixote," which you desired to have. I have mentioned your projects of improvements, of immigration, and of colonisation in Epirus at the Ministry, and everybody is ready to support your ideas directly the Greek question in Thessaly is settled. It is, however, quite true that the other and much graver question still remains of the occupation of Novi-Bazar by Austria, but I hope that Turkey will resolve never to cede the key of Albania and Bosnia to a Power, the intention of which to seize upon the railway which goes to Salonica is henceforth known to everybody.

"In order to duly neutralize the influence of Austria in Albania, it would be, perhaps, very advantageous to Turkey and Italy to create a line of steamers, which, starting from Bari, would touch at the ports of Durazzo, Vallona, Corfu, Sejada, Parga, and Prevesa.

"I think that the Floris Italian Company would undertake this service in connection with the vessels from Constantinople, if it could count upon the subvention which Turkey now gives to the Austrian Lloyds, which performs a very irregular postal service. I hope, for the sake of the vilayet of Janina, that your Excellency will long remain Commander-in-Chief of the army of Epirus, and I am, &c.

(Signed) "P. CORTE."

"P.S.—If his Excellency Constant Pasha is still at Prevesa be good enough to present my respects to him and to his amiable wife."

We will only add that Moukhtar Pasha's immigration scheme referred to is that which M. Waddington has described to the British Government as one for the importation of Mohammedan-Albanians into the Christian Greek-speaking portions of Epirus near Janina, which was included in the districts which at Berlin Europe proposed to cede to Greece, and that Signor Corte holds an important position in the Italian Consular Service.

No. 331.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 480.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 20, 1879.

IN consequence of number of Mussulman refugees from Bulgaria now in Constantinople, who are exasperated by the loss of their property and the cruelties committed upon the Mussulman population, the Sultan and his Ministers are of opinion that it is desirable that Prince Alexander should not come here for the present. They therefore propose to instruct Turkish Minister at Rome to meet the Prince, and to request him to proceed direct to Tirnovo, where his Berat of investiture will be sent him by a Mushir. When public feeling is somewhat calmed, the Sultan tells me that, should the Prince come here, considering the friendship and sympathy he had for the Queen, there was nothing he would not do for the Prince, as Her Majesty feels an interest in him; but he referred me to his Ministers, who would inform me, he said, of the decision that had been taken as to His Highness' inquiry [?].

No. 332.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 20, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 218 of 28th ultimo, M. de Giers has just received Report from Prince Labanoff on Asia Frontier question which he will submit to-morrow to the Emperor and the Minister for War. He will communicate result to me in an interview next Monday.

No. 333.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 21, 1879.

YESTERDAY the Russian Governor-General caused territory in dispute between Servia and Bulgaria, on the old frontier at Veliki-Isvor, to be occupied by two companies of infantry.

No. 334.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1879, 2·50 P.M.

YOURS 480.

I think decision of Sultan is far from judicious. Point out that such an affront is throwing away the last chance of obtaining favourable treatment for the Mussulmans who remain in Bulgaria.

No. 335.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1879, 3·25 P.M.

I APPROVE of proposals in your telegram of the 19th instant, but avoid any unnecessary activity on the part of Commission, or you will get into trouble.

No. 336.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 313.)
Foreign Office, June 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 489, stating that the Sultan and his Ministers are of opinion that it is not desirable that Prince Alexander should visit Constantinople at the present moment, on account of the presence there of a large number of Mussulman refugees from Bulgaria, and the exasperated feeling which has been occasioned among them by the loss of their property and the reports of cruelties inflicted upon the Mussulmans who have remained in or returned to the Principality. It is, therefore, proposed that the Prince should be requested by the Turkish Minister at Rome to proceed direct to Tirnovo, and that his Berât of investiture should be sent to him there.

I have stated to you, in reply, that this decision seems to me far from judicious. It would be well that you should point out that the affront to the Prince which will be implied in this proceeding will be tantamount to throwing away the last chance of obtaining favourable treatment for the Mussulman population which still remains in the Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 337.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 5.)
Foreign Office, June 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 19th instant, stating that you propose to submit to the Commission of which you are a member a motion expressing the opinion that the rights of the Greek population of Eastern Roumelia have not been sufficiently taken into account in the nomination to the Council and to other appointments in the province, with the intention that this opinion should be forwarded to the Governor-General.

You also propose to submit a motion calling the attention of the Governor-General to the expediency of at once giving effect to Article 370 of the Organic Statute, which provides that a register shall be kept in each commune of all the male inhabitants up to the age of thirty-two.

In reply, I have informed you that I approve the proposals in question, but that you will do well to avoid any unnecessary activity on the part of the Commission, which would be very likely to lead to confusion and embarrassment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 338.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, June 22, 1879.

CAPTAIN SALE has asked me to telegraph following to your Lordship:—

"No instructions have as yet been received with reference to stoppage of work of Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

"Commission has been now nearly a month quite unemployed, each Commissioner awaiting instructions. May I be informed by telegraph if I may expect to receive instructions in this matter or not? Certain members of the Commission wish to bring the matter forward for discussion on the 26th instant, and it would greatly facilitate a decision if I might have an answer from your Lordship before that date."

No. 339.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, June 22, 1879.

THE Austrian Consul informs me that a messenger has arrived from his colleague at Prisrend with alarming accounts of the state of North-Eastern Albania. The Christians of Jacova, who are few in number, have all escaped from that town. The authorities are reported to be moving itinerary troops, and perhaps now fears of Christians may, as frequently happens in Albania, be only momentary.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 340.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 162.)
Athens, June 11, 1879.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my telegraphic despatch, dated the 9th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Chargé d'Affaires of Germany has, by order of his Government, delivered to-day to the Greek Government a note, couched in the same terms as those his colleagues have already presented, asking them to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople for the purpose of renewing the negotiations between Greece and the Sublime Porte for the carrying out the recommendations of the Congress of Berlin in regard to the rectification of their frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 341.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 164.)
Athens, June 11, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of this day, I have the honour to report that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that his Government accepts the proposal to send Plenipotentiaries to Constantinople, but that they delay replying to the invitation of the Representatives of the Great Powers until the rank and number of the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries shall have been ascertained.

The Greek Minister at Constantinople reports that up to 11 o'clock this morning no communication had been made to the Porte on the subject of the negotiations, in consequence of Sir Henry Layard not having yet received his instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 342.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 166.)
Athens, June 13, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the second telegram which I addressed to your Lordship on the 11th instant, I have now the honour to report that I have received a note from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting me to convey the thanks of the Greek Government to that of Her Majesty for the favourable reception of their appeal for mediation which was stipulated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Delyanni adds that Plenipotentiaries will be ordered to proceed to Constantinople in order to renew the negotiations which had been broken off at Prevesa, and will inform me of the names of the persons selected as soon as they are appointed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 343.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 169.)

My Lord, *Athens, June 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour, with reference to my despatch No. 160 of the 9th instant, to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note which has been addressed to me by the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated the 12th instant, asking me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the thanks of that of Greece for the favourable reception it has given to the demand of mediation as stipulated in Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin, and stating that the names of the Greek Plenipotentiaries who would be sent to Constantinople to renew the negotiations broken off at Prevesa should be communicated to me as soon as they have been chosen.

I have also the honour to inclose copy of a second note, dated the same day as the former one from M. Delyanni, informing me that the Plenipotentiaries chosen to continue the negotiations at Constantinople are MM. Condouriotis, Greek Minister to the Porte, and Brailas Armenis, Greek Minister at St. Petersburgh. His Excellency adds that the number will be augmented if the Porte should name more than two Representatives.

M. Delyanni concludes by expressing the hope that this proceeding will conduce to bring about a result in conformity with the decision taken by the Powers, and recorded in Protocol No. 13 of the Congress of Berlin, from which the Hellenic Government cannot ("ne doit pas") depart.

No news of any steps having been taken on the part of the Porte to renew negotiations with Greece has yet reached Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 343.

M. Delyanni to Mr. Corbett.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le 12 Juin, 1879.*

EN réponse à la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser avant-hier, je m'empresse avant tout de vous exprimer, et de vous prier de vouloir bien transmettre à votre Gouvernement, les remercîments du Gouvernement Royal de ce que son appel concernant la médiation stipulée par l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin a été favorablement accueilli par le Cabinet de Londres.

La reprise à Constantinople des négociations rompues à Preveza faisant partie de la procédure adoptée par les Grandes Puissances pour leur médiation entre la Grèce et la Turquie, le Gouvernement Royal s'empressera de nommer dans ce but des Plénipotentiaires dont je me ferai un devoir de vous communiquer les noms aussitôt qu'ils seront nommés.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THÉODORE DELYANNI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 343.

M. Delyanni to Mr. Corbett.

M. le Ministre, *Athènes, le 12 Juin, 1879.*

A LA suite de la lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser le $\frac{31 \text{ Mai}}{12 \text{ Juin}}$, je m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance que le Gouvernement Royal vient de nommer en qualité de Plénipotentiaires chargés de reprendre à Constantinople les négociations de rectification rompues à Preveza: MM. A. G. Coundouriotis et S. Brailas Arménis, Envoyés Extraordinaires et Ministres Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté à Constantinople et à St. Pétersbourg.

Pour donner une nouvelle preuve de son désir de voir marcher la question vers une prompte solution, le Gouvernement Royal s'est empressé de nommer les Plénipotentiaires précités, sauf à en augmenter le nombre pour garder la proportion avec ceux qui seront nommés par la Porte.

En vous faisant cette communication je ne saurais m'abstenir d'exprimer le vœu que cette nouvelle démarche aboutisse à un résultat conforme aux décisions prises par

les Puissances et consignées dans le Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin, dont le Gouvernement Royal ne doit pas s'éloigner.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THÉODORE DELYANNI.

No. 344.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 260.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 14, 1879.*

I TOOK an opportunity of inquiring this afternoon of M. de Giers whether it was true that the Servian authorities had been expelled by orders of the Russo-Bulgarian Government from places to which they laid claim along the frontier, and that Cossacks had been sent to hasten their departure.

His Excellency told me that he had no information of force having been resorted to; but that it was true that Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff had complained to the Imperial Government that, in spite of all his remonstrances and of a summons to quit repeated on two occasions, the Servian authorities not only insisted on remaining in places near Trn and elsewhere on the Bulgarian side of the frontier, as it had been laid down by the Frontier Delimitation Commission, but they were actually cutting down the forests, and doing other acts injurious to the interests of Bulgaria.

Under these circumstances, permission had been given to Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff to force the Servians to retire out of Bulgarian territory within the line of frontier laid down by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 345.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 262.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 14, 1879.*

M. BRAILAS, the Greek Minister at this Court, leaves St. Petersburgh to-morrow for Athens.

He informs me that he has been nominated to go to Constantinople as co-Plenipotentiary with M. Condouriotis for the discussion with the Porte of the new line of frontier to be drawn between Turkey and Greece.

M. Brailas, who began life as a leading man in the politics of his native Island of Corfu, and afterwards for many years resided in London, is a person of considerable erudition and experience, and any opinion of his will therefore have great weight with his countrymen.

I have not had an opportunity of speaking to him for more than a few minutes since his appointment as Plenipotentiary, but from what I have often heard him say on previous occasions, I have no doubt he will endeavour to obtain for his country what is here called the Waddington line of frontier, and that he will be steadily opposed to any alteration of that line to the detriment of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 346.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 267.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish Ambassador made a communication yesterday, by order of his Government, to M. de Giers, complaining of the many inaccuracies which had been discovered in the Austrian Staff Map of Montenegro and the surrounding country. In consequence of these inaccuracies, the Commission for the Delimitation of the Montenegrin Frontier had been already led into errors prejudicial to Turkey, and, therefore, in order to prevent the recurrence of any such

mistakes, Turkey proposes that the Commissioners should be instructed to make a fresh survey of the country for themselves.

Although I believe no official reply has yet been returned to this communication, I hear the Russian Government are not inclined to accede to a demand which would entail so much waste of time.

To use the words employed to me by Baron Jomini this afternoon, when talking about this and other Eastern matters, "Ce que nous (Russie) voulons partout c'est de liquider la situation le plus vite possible."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 347.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 277.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, June 18, 1879.

I INQUIRED this afternoon of M. de Giers what reception the Emperor had made to the Delegates of the Bulgarian party in Eastern Roumelia, who, I heard, had lately had the honour of being received by His Majesty.

M. de Giers said that when these gentlemen on their arrival here had called upon him, he had at once informed them that there could be no question of their presenting any address to the Emperor. They had replied that they no longer desired to do so; things had much altered in Eastern Roumelia during the three months which had elapsed since their departure, and all they now desired was to pay their respects to His Majesty. As they had visited all the other capitals, they considered themselves bound to come also to St. Petersburgh, and to express their thanks to His Majesty for all he had done.

The Emperor, having received from M. de Giers a Report of what had passed between his Excellency and the Eastern Roumelian Delegates, was graciously pleased to receive them after Mass last Sunday at Tsarskoe Seloe.

No address was presented, and M. de Giers assures me that the Emperor repeated to them in substance the same advice to accept tranquilly the position secured to them by the Treaty of Berlin and the European Commission, which General Ohrutcheff had given at Philippopolis in His Majesty's name.

M. de Giers added that these Delegates, in conversation with him, expressed themselves satisfied with what had been done, and had themselves described their visit here under present circumstances as almost an anachronism.

The Delegates have already left St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 348.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord,

Corfu, June 19, 1879.

I REGRET extremely to have to report that a few nights ago an armed band of Epirote refugees, natives of the district of Delvino, crossed over from hence to the opposite coast, on a marauding expedition.

2. Returning from a late walk on the night of the 17th instant, I observed what were evidently signal lights being exhibited from an eminence above the suburb of Castrades, in full view of the Albanian coast, in the direction of Butrinto. This circumstance awoke my suspicions that there was something "in the wind," and next day (yesterday) I hastened to call on my Turkish colleague to advise him of what I had observed, and of my conclusions therefrom.

3. In fact, from the information received from Conemenos Bey, it turned out that my suspicions were only too well founded; he stated that he had received timely notice of the expedition from one of his Cavasses, who had watched its departure, and further learnt on reliable authority that the object of the band was not merely plunder, but that they intended to assassinate one of the Beys of Delvino, whose cruelty and

oppression had mainly contributed to their present distress. The Bey further stated that he had lost no time in telegraphing the above particulars to the Vali of Janina, who may (or may not!) take the requisite measures for defeating the schemes of the invaders.

4. As it has been rumoured here that the Greek Government intend desisting from the formation of the camp in Acarnania, pending the course of further negotiations for adjusting the frontiers, I venture to send an extract from the latest report of the Vice-Consul of Santa Maura, which, it is much to be regretted, gives a very different view of that question.

5. Two of the most fanatical Epirote "leaguers," Wessel Bey, brother of the notorious Abeddin Bey, and the Cadi of Prevesa, arrived here on the 16th instant, and left by the Austrian steamer of the same day for Constantinople, whither they have been summoned by their Government, it is said, to give information on the present state of matters in the province. Their voice will doubtless be for war, but it may be they are sent for in order to prevent their creating disturbances in the event of the cession of a good slice of Lower Epirus to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 348.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Santa Maura, June 15, 1879.

COLONEL GRIVAS arrived at his country house opposite from Athens on Monday last by a Greek gun-boat. He is very reticent with regard to the "boundary question" and to the intentions of the Government, but he attaches great importance to the camp at Lepenus, and is very angry with the officers who dared to express an opinion against the healthiness of that locality. Colonel Sapouzakis himself, despite the high position he holds as Commander of the camp, and the high esteem in which he is held in the army, has not only been reprimanded by the Minister, but also punished, with fifteen days' arrest in his tent at Lepenus, while the chief military surgeon and an officer of Engineers have been respectively punished with one month's arrest.

This severity on the part of the Minister of War, who is no doubt prompted by a firm determination to maintain discipline in the army, has very much shaken the popularity he has hitherto enjoyed, because it is, rightly or wrongly, ascribed to "party" rather than to any disciplinary motives.

It appears the Minister will inspect the camp at an early day, and report says that in the event of a movement to the front he will take the command of the troops. He visited the other day Faverda and Mithica—no doubt to prepare the ground for the forthcoming Parliamentary elections. It appears the Colonel meditates securing in the new Chamber a military majority, as upwards of 200 officers are spoken of as candidates who reckon on his support. Should his efforts be crowned with success, we may expect to see a powerful "Grivas party" at the head of affairs. As a first step in this direction, I may mention that the candidate he means to support at Santa Maura is Lieutenant Asproieraca. All the "Mobiles," natives of Santa Maura, have been allowed to remain in garrison here instead of joining their colours at Lepenus, and, in return, they have engaged, it is said, to vote for the Colonel's candidate!

I fear we shall have troubles in Greece, whether externally or internally.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 349.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 22, 1879.

RUSSIAN Commissary left to-day; goes to Shumla, Osman-Bazar, Pravadi, and neighbourhood; will meet Prince Alexander at Varna on the [? 5th] July, and accompany him to Tirnova.

No. 350.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 20. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, June 23, 1879.*

THE Turkish Ambassador came to me yesterday, after an audience with the Shah. He professed to have, in accordance with previous promise to me, advised His Majesty to seek the friendship and protection of England, in preference to the dangerous alliance with Russia. He told me, however, that he had further stated his opinion to His Majesty that Persia was not in a position to refuse furnishing transport and provisions to the Russians. This opinion will encourage the Persian Government to resume a policy which I hoped they had finally relinquished.

I have ascertained from his Excellency himself the truth of the statement, which I communicated to your Lordship in my telegram of the 21st November last, respecting language held to him by the Shah, which he had concealed from me, as had Safvet Pasha subsequently from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, as shown in his Excellency's despatch No. 1493 of the 3rd December.

(Communicated to Viceroy.)

No. 351.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23, 6·45 P.M.)

(No. 493.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 23, 1879, 12·10 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER says although he much regrets decision about Prince of Bulgaria's visit, he believes that there would be danger of disturbances if he came here, which the enemies of the Sultan as well as of himself would promote. There would be Bulgarian demonstrations and counter-demonstrations on the part of refugees and others which might have serious consequences and threaten good relations which he so earnestly desired to see established between Prince and Porte. Sultan has sent a most civil and complimentary message [? to the] Prince, expressive of his earnest desire to have personal communication with him, the great pleasure with which he had learnt the good impression His Highness had made in Europe, hoping that the reasons which prevented his visit to Constantinople would be soon removed, and that he would come here, where he would have the warmest reception, &c.

No. 352.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23, 8·15 P.M.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 97, M. de Giers tells me orders have been sent to Russian Commissioner to conform to the principle laid down in the 18th Protocol and to line traced on map of Asiatic frontier exchanged between your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff. He hopes you will furnish Colonel Clarke with copy of that map, and authorize him to accept it as his guide.

No. 353.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Adrianople, June 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Commission of which I am a member has completed the delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia from the Black Sea to the point on the River Tundja where work was suspended last year.

From a point marked "Keseldikbair" on the Austrian map the frontier adopted runs in a north-easterly direction and joins the Black Sea between the two rivers marked

"Karagac-Su," and is clearly defined by a natural water-parting which is nowhere broken throughout its extent.

As I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my despatch No. 36 of the 27th ultimo, there was a divergence in opinion as to the mode of tracing the frontier at the head of the Karanlik Valley.

The Commission was not supplied with the large Russian large-scale map at this part of the country.

The Commission carefully reconnoitred the country, and a survey was made which occupied five days, the head of the Karanlik Valley being densely wooded.

On the completion of the survey an official meeting was held.

The Turkish Delegate proposed that the natural watershed to the north and west of the village of Kara-Evren should be maintained as frontier; in this he was supported by the French and Italian Delegates and by myself.

In the absence of Colonel Philippoff, Lieutenant-Colonel Commereau proposed that the natural line should be left at a point north of the village of Karanlik, descend the valley by a spur, cross the river of Karanlik, and regain the natural watershed by another spur, or, in other words, that the line of frontier should pass between the villages of Karanlik and Kara-Evren. The Austrian Delegate supported this proposition. The German Delegate took no part in the discussion, and abstained from voting.

The proposition of the Turkish Delegate was therefore carried by a majority of 4 to 2.

In my despatch No. 36 I had the honour to inform your Lordship the reasons which would induce me to consider the natural line of water-parting as representing the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, and I am the more convinced that such was the frontier intended.

The line proposed by the Russian Delegate crosses a thickly-wooded valley, and if adopted would always be most difficult to recognize.

The village of Kara-Evren, though at present in possession of Bulgarians, was prior to the war essentially a Turkish village.

Further, the watershed has been specified by the Treaty of Berlin as the one to be maintained, though the large Turkish villages of Belevren, Kaibilar, and Uzakiag are given to Eastern Roumelia.

There was only one other difference of opinion; this occured between Buyuk-derbend and the River Tundja, where it was necessary to leave the watershed to gain the left bank of the river opposite to the point fixed last year on the right bank.

The Russian Commissioner was desirous that the natural line should be left east of the village of Hamsabeyli, and that the frontier should be traced so as to leave that village to Eastern Roumelia. This proposition was overruled by a majority of 6 to 1, as it was considered desirable to maintain the natural line as long as possible, and, moreover, Hamsabeyli is a Turkish village, and there was no geographical reason for it to be on the Eastern Roumelia side of the frontier.

I have the honour to attach tracings of the portions of the frontier where divergence of opinion existed.

These tracings are taken from surveys made under orders of the Commission, as, where more than one solution was possible, we were not furnished with the large-scale map.

I regret to have to add that the Commission is delayed at Adrianople until the 18th instant.

Colonel Philippoff, who left us on the 27th ultimo, not having returned, and Colonel Commereau, who was presented as having full powers, has informed us that he also has received instructions to go into Constantinople for a few days.

I find that the tracings above alluded to cannot be completed in time to accompany this despatch, which I am desirous to forward to-day by the Austrian mail; they shall be sent by the next mail which leaves Adrianople on the 18th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

No. 354.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 50. Secret.)

Constantinople, June 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that at a meeting of the Turco-Russian Boundary Commission yesterday afternoon the project of frontier between the Black Sea and Kavaourgan, which the Turkish Government had rejected on account of its not being in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, was reconsidered.

At this meeting were present, in addition to the Russian General Stebnitzky and the Turkish Commissioners, the following Turkish Generals of Brigade: Edhem Pasha,* Akhif Pasha,† and Osman Pasha.‡

As your Lordship will readily understand, I was not present at the meeting, although, of course, I am in constant communication with my Turkish colleague.

The first subject under discussion was that part of Article LVIII which declares that from "un point au nord-ouest de Khorda et au sud d'Artwin (la frontière) se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière, et passe à l'est d'Aschmichen. . . ."

The Turkish Commissioners, including Ali Nizami, whom your Lordship will remember as having been the Pasha really responsible for following the Russian lead in drawing up the original project, commenced by submitting that the project, in the view of the Turkish Government, was not drawn up in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin. They alleged that, in the demarcation from the point north-west of Khorda and south of Artwin, the frontier-line, instead of striking the Tchoroukh obliquely, as in the project, should reach that river by the shortest line ("ligne droite"), cross that river and gain the watershed on the opposite bank which separates the affluents of the Tchoroukh-Su from those of the Ardameh-Su, and thence that it should follow this ridge, as far as practicable, to the point fixed by the Treaty of San Stefano to the south of Nariman. This is unquestionably the natural frontier, the watershed in point being a well-marked feature.

In their arguments the Turkish Commissioners reproduced the substance of the Memoranda which I submitted to Carathéodory Pasha through his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador on the 22nd April and 19th May respectively. Your Lordship has already received the first Memorandum. A copy of the second I have the honour herewith to inclose.

A lengthy discussion followed upon this new proposition of the Turkish Commissioners, and, in the end, the Russian Commissioner agreed to accept the view that the frontier should strike the Tchoroukh perpendicularly and cross the river at that point, but would not consent to the frontier-line being traced along the above-mentioned watershed. His alternative proposal was to give the frontier-line a direction parallel, and much nearer, to the Tchoroukh, while not following any natural features.

So that in principle the altered trace of the frontier is agreed upon, although the details have yet to be settled.

The frontier under discussion yesterday reaches about half-way to Olti from Artwin, and even if the Turks accede to the new trace proposed by the Russian Commissioners, they will regain about 50 square kilom. in that portion, but I am not without hope, from the unanimity upon the question which subsists among the Turkish Commissioners, permanent and temporary, and from the apparent decline of Russian influence, that the Turkish Government will support their own Delegates in the maintenance of the chief watershed on the right bank of the Tchoroukh as the true natural frontier.

As regards Turkish defence or British interests, the portion of the frontier under consideration yesterday has no great value, but it is so far of importance to Turkish administration that it includes some fertile valleys, and possesses an exclusively Mahommedan population. It is not until the neighbourhood of Olti that the tracing of the frontier becomes of importance from a strategical point of view, and where, therefore, it is most desirable that no more territory should be yielded by Turkey than the Signatory Powers intended, *i.e.*, the frontier should be traced in such wise as to give only the town and its immediate neighbourhood to Russia. I shall watch this part of the demarcation very closely, and report to your Lordship.

* Director of Military Education.
† General on the staff.
‡ Sub-President of the Council of the Imperial Guard (Khassa Mejlesi Reis-Vekil).

One important fact is to be noted with regard to the proceedings yesterday, that both Russians and Turks have now acknowledged that in their original project there had been an important departure from the spirit and letter of the Treaty of Berlin.

The error made is now only too apparent to the Turks, but it is late in the day to retrieve it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

Inclosure in No. 354.

Memorandum.

SELON l'Article LVIII du Traité de Berlin, "la nouvelle frontière partant de la Mer Noire, conformément à la ligne déterminée par le Traité de San Stefano, jusqu'à un point au nord-ouest de Khorda et au sud d'Artwin, se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière et passe à l'est d'Aschmichen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre la frontière Russe indiquée dans le Traité de San Stefano à un point au sud de Nariman, en laissant la ville d'Olti à la Russie. Du point indiqué près de Nariman, la frontière tourne à l'est, passe par Tebrenec, qui reste à la Russie, et s'avance jusqu'au Pennek Chai. Elle suit cette rivière jusqu'à Bardouz puis se dirige vers le sud en laissant Bardouz et Yenikeuy à la Russie."

La partie de la frontière délimitée par la Commission partant de la Mer Noire et aboutissant à un point nord-ouest de Khorda et au sud d'Artwin, paraît être d'accord avec celle délinie par le Traité de San Stefano.

Après Artwin l'Article LVIII stipule que "la frontière se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière . . . . ."

Ici le Traité est parfaitement clair; la ligne-frontière à partir du point fixé au sud d'Artwin doit être tracée perpendiculairement (en ligne droite) à la direction générale du Tchorokh, et doit être prolongée jusqu'à la rive droite de la rivière. Evidemment la seule interprétation qu'on puisse donner aux mots "en ligne droite" c'est le perpendiculaire; car si on admet la ligne droite être simplement une ligne directe, c'est clair qu'on peut tracer un nombre infini de lignes directes partant du point au sud d'Artwin et aboutissant sur différents points du fleuve Tchorokh.

Toutes ces lignes seront comprises sous la désignation de "directe;" mais il n'y a qu'une seule ligne droite; c'est la plus courte, le "perpendiculaire." C'est exactement pour éviter cette difficulté qu'on a précisé la direction de la frontière d'une manière explicite par l'emploi des mots "ligne droite."

Mais la frontière délimitée par la Commission montre une divergence importante des termes du Traité; et au lieu de traverser la rivière directement "elle suit la rivière Sari-Sou jusqu'à sa jonction avec la rivière Milo-Sou, et elle traverse cette rivière et suit la crête, &c. . . . ." C'est à dire que la ligne-frontière reste à la rive gauche du Tchorokh à une distance considérable.

En second lieu la frontière, d'après le Traité de Berlin, "se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière et passe à l'est d'Aschmichen, en allant en ligne droite au sud pour rejoindre la frontière Russe indiquée dans le Traité de San Stefano à un point au Sud de Nariman, en laissant la ville d'Olti à la Russie, &c. . . . ."

C'est-à-dire, la ligne-frontière après avoir traversé le Tchorokh à l'endroit même où la ligne perpendiculaire venant du point fixé au sud d'Artwin se croise avec la rivière, et après avoir gagné la crête sur la rive droite, doit se diriger directement jusqu'au point fixé au sud de Nariman, ainsi passant à l'est d'Aschmichen.

Mais d'après le tracé de la Commission, la rivière Tchorokh n'est traversée, qu'à un point près de Zor à 18 kilom. au sud de l'endroit envisagé par le Traité, et atteint Nariman par un détour considérable; toute la bande de terrain comprise entre la frontière ainsi tracée et la ligne droite imaginaire se trouvant à l'ouest, reste par conséquent à la Russie.

En effet, à Olti la ligne-frontière se trouve au moins à 10 kilom. à l'ouest de la ville sans aucun motif raisonnable.

Il est sans doute à la connaissance de tous, qu'à Berlin il y a eu une grande discussion à propos de la possession ultérieure d'Olti; une ville d'une grande importance stratégique à cause de sa position au débouché d'un défilé, et c'est seulement au dernier moment que le Congrès a décidé que la ville d'Olti soit cédée à la Russie. En

présence de l'importance du terrain dans cette partie c'est difficile à compendre pourquoi la frontière projetée a été tracée à une telle distance à l'ouest de la ville. On ne peut pas avancer que les limites de la ville peuvent s'entendre jusqu'à une distance de plus de 10 kilom., car en examinant la carte, on ne peut manquer de remarquer qu'entre la ville et la frontière proposée il y a des villages, tels que Tujurus et Tamrut. Je regarde cette partie du tracé comme très-importante.

De plus, le Traité continue ainsi : " du point près de Nariman la frontière tourne à l'est, passe par Tebrence, &c."

Or, il y a deux Tebrences : l'un d'eux indiqué dans la carte de Kiepert se trouve à l'est d'Olti, et l'autre est situé au sud-est. C'est le dernier que la Commission a choisi, tandis que l'autre, qui se trouve sur la carte de Kiepert (celle dont le Congrès de Berlin s'est servie) est ignoré. Tebrence se trouve différemment placé sur les deux cartes de Kiepert (la vieille carte et la nouvelle carte de l'année 1877). Sur la première sa position est environ E. 12° N. d'Olti ; sur la dernière E. 15° S. ; par conséquent assez conforme sous le rapport de direction au Tebrence supérieur et au Tebrence inférieur, respectivement, de la nouvelle carte Russe. Comme la position du Tebrence du Traité n'est pas clair, il s'ensuit qu'en premier lieu on devrait chercher sur la carte les accidents du terrain, surtout les crêtes, afin de donner une frontière naturelle. Cette frontière naturelle on peut trouver sur la crête bien marquée d'Abussar-Dagh.

Une bonne frontière pourrait être parfaitement bien tracée de Nariman en suivant la longueur de la chaîne d'Abussar-Dagh, et aboutissant au Pennek-Chai, à l'est de Pertuss. Alors Tebrence supérieur appartiendrait à la Russie, et Tebrence inférieur à la Turquie ; une division très-juste quand il y a ambiguïté dans le Traité. Mais l'étendue de terrain en dispute est ici très-petite, et je n'aurais pas fait aucune mention si ce n'est que pour la raison que dans un autre cas pareil, c'est-à-dire dans la fixation du point au sud d'Artwin, et au nord-ouest de Khorda, l'interprétation accordée aux termes du Traité de Berlin par la Commission a été en faveur de la Russie.

Encore une fois le tracé de la frontière est favorable à la Russie. Bardouz aussi est laissé à une distance de 2½ kilom. à l'est de la ligne-frontière. A mon avis la ligne-frontière délimitée par MM. les Commissaires est tracée sur toute sa longueur en faveur de la Russie sans compensation équivalente pour la Turquie.

Selon mon opinion la divergence des termes du Traité est la chose la plus grave, car il s'agit d'une question de principe, et je suis de l'avis que l'interprétation faite par la Commission des mots suivants de l'Article LVIII : " se prolonge en ligne droite jusqu'à la Rivière Tchorokh, traverse cette rivière, &c." (selon moi bien explicites), est une interprétation que les Puissances Signataires n'avaient jamais en vue.

Il y a un paragraphe dans le projet de frontière qui me semble être inadmissible, et qui est ainsi conçu :—

Les Délégués Russes et Ottomans sont tenus à se conformer à la carte ci-jointe lors des travaux de la Commission."

Cela engage la Commission d'accepter la carte soumise, avec toutes ses erreurs possibles ; une carte entièrement nouvelle et dressée par une Puissance intéressée. La condition doit être du moins insérée que la carte est sujette à la vérification sur le terrain même.

Sent to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador on the 19th May, 1879, for transmission to his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha.

(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

No. 355.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 498.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 15, 1879.*

THE Grand Vizier sent to me yesterday to ask me to call upon him. His object in wishing to see me was to tell me that the Sultan was extremely anxious about the arrears of pay due to the army, which was becoming disorganized, and which, His Majesty feared, might disband itself, adding to the insecurity which already existed in most parts of the country. His Majesty desired to find, without loss of time, a sufficient sum to pay at least a part of these arrears, and to enable him to send from 150,000 to 200,000 men back to their homes. With this object he was desirous of

knowing whether he could raise some money on the revenues of Cyprus, Her Majesty's Government pledging themselves to hand over to the persons who advanced it the annual surplus payable to the Porte.

I told Haireddin Pasha that this was a matter in which I could not interfere, nor upon which I could give any opinion. I suggested that he should address himself to Colonel Biddulph, who was still in Constantinople, and who had been charged by Her Majesty's Government with the settlement of all questions connected with the revenues of Cyprus. I pointed out to his Highness, at the same time, that as, in consequence of the delays which had been occasioned on the part of the Porte, no arrangement had taken place, it was not very likely that Colonel Biddulph could entertain any such proposal as his Highness had submitted to me, and that he was about to return to Cyprus in three days.

The Grand Vizier said that he should lose no time in communicating with Colonel Biddulph, who informs me that he saw Carathéodory Pasha on the subject this morning, and, as I had expected, expressed his opinion that Her Majesty's Government would not allow the annual payment in question to be affected to a loan. He will, no doubt, report to your Lordship what has taken place.

Haireddin Pasha told me that the Sultan had become excessively nervous about the state of the army, which was, no doubt, most unsatisfactory, and might lead to serious peril, as there was nothing in the Treasury, not only wherewith to pay, but to feed the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 356.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 502.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1879.*

PHOTIADES PASHA will leave Constantinople in the middle of this week on his return to his Government in Crete. He informs me that he is well satisfied with the result of his visit to the capital. The Porte, with the sanction of the Sultan, has yielded to all the essential demands of the Cretan Assembly with one exception, that relating to the Vakoufs. His Excellency said that on this question he was of opinion, and had so told the Assembly before he left the island, that the Porte could not yield. He explained to me that the Assembly pretended that as the tithes of the island had been given over to it by the Organic Statute, it was entitled to claim the tithes which were paid by Vakouf property for the support of pious foundations. If this were done the mosques and Mussulman schools and religious institutions would have no funds for their support, and would consequently fall to ruin. It was evident that the Porte could not agree to a concession which would have this result, besides interfering with property which did not belong to the State, but had been specially assigned by its original possessors to pious uses. His Excellency added that he should endeavour to persuade the Assembly that their demand on this head was not a just or reasonable one, and he expressed his hope that Consul Sandwith would use his influence with its leaders with the same object. Photiades Pasha seemed to think that the moderate and more sensible members of the Assembly were prepared to accept the decision in a fair and equitable spirit, although Greek Agents would probably make use of it as a grievance to work upon the Christian population.

Photiades Pasha told me that, having obtained the principal concessions which he had asked on behalf of the Cretans, he was determined to take his own course in administering the island, and in carrying out the policy which he considered most conducive to its interests, as well as to those of the Porte. He had informed the Council that he did not intend to be fettered from Constantinople in his nominations to judicial and other important posts. Although some of the Ministers, including Said Pasha, were at first opposed to giving him this latitude, they ended by yielding to his arguments.

Photiades Pasha is of opinion that under the present Organic Statute, if justly and properly administered, the Cretan population, Mussulman and Christian, will be satisfied and prosperous, and that there is no danger of any serious insurrectionary movement in Crete, unless a quarrel should unfortunately take place between the Porte and Greece, in which case he could not answer for the consequences, as the

Greek Government would, no doubt, do their utmost, through its agents and by money, to promote an insurrection in the island.

I have communicated a copy of this despatch to Mr. Sandwith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 357.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 505.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1879.*

I HAVE communicated to Carathéodory Pasha the substance of Mr. Gould's telegram to your Lordship of the 12th instant, relating to the alleged proceedings of armed Albanians on the Servian frontier. His Excellency replied that he had already received similar information, and that he had been occupying himself with the matter.

After an interview on the subject with the Servian Agent, M. Cristich, he had applied to Osman Pasha, the Seraskier, who asserts that the Turkish troops on the frontier in question are in sufficient numbers to maintain order there, and to protect the Commissioners; but that, on the other hand, the Servians themselves leave their frontier entirely unguarded, trusting to the Turkish troops to watch it. However, his Excellency added he would write at once to the Vali of Kossovo on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 358.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 506.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1879.*

I HAVE thought it desirable to communicate to Carathéodory Pasha your Lordship's despatch No. 754 of the 3rd instant, extending your Lordship's telegram No. 92, relating to the proceedings of the Commission sent by the Porte to inquire into the condition of the Vilayet of Aleppo, and especially into the ill-treatment of the Christians of Zeitoun by Kiamil Pasha. I urgently requested his Excellency's attention to the very unfavourable impression which the result of the inquiries of the Commission had produced upon Her Majesty's Government, and I pointed out to him that the words of your Lordship's despatch should be taken in connection with the instructions, given by me to Sir A. Sandison, and read to him on this subject, copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 485 of the 12th instant.

I availed myself of this opportunity to press upon him again the necessity of further explanations being obtained from Kiamil Pasha as to the charge made against him of intercepting Consul Henderson's letters—a charge the truth of which was now virtually admitted by the Pasha himself. I said that I must insist upon redress in this instance, as nothing whatever could justify the step taken by the Pasha of taking possession of letters addressed to a British functionary.

His Excellency replied that my note on the subject of Mr. Henderson's letters had been transmitted to Kadri Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, with instructions to obtain the required explanations from Kiamil Pasha, who had since obtained the authorization of the Porte to join his family at Beyrouth. His Excellency said that he was not aware whether or not Kiamil Pasha had left Constantinople; but in any case he would give orders that the explanations should be obtained, and that the Pasha should, if necessary, be ordered to return to the capital. Carathéodory Pasha maintained, however, that the intercepted correspondence was very compromising as regards Mr. Henderson.

With respect to your Lordship's despatch, his Excellency observed that he did not know what more was to be done by the Porte for the district of Zeitoun. It had agreed to dismiss Kiamil Pasha, and had sent a Commission to make inquiries upon the spot.

His Excellency requested that he should be informed exactly as to what more

was required by Her Majesty's Government of the Porte, and as to the facts to which I considered it necessary that the special attention of the Commission should now be called. He would then send such instructions to it as were necessary, if it were in any way to blame.

His Excellency complained again that Lieutenant Chermside had assumed to be a member of the Commission and to act in that capacity, although it had been clearly understood when he joined it that he held no official position in it. The consequence had been, his Excellency said, that several foreign missions had addressed the Porte on the subject, requesting to be informed of the "attributions" of Lieutenant Chermside.

His Excellency further suggested that in the interests of the public service, and in order to facilitate the work of the Commission, Mr. Henderson ought to be removed, at least temporarily, from the Province of Aleppo.

I am informed by Mr. Henderson that Mr. Chermside has sent me a very full report upon the result of the proceedings of the Commission. I shall wait until I receive that document before complying with Carathéodory Pasha's request to supply him with further information on this subject. I shall then be able to see how far I can communicate to him the substance, or parts of it, of Lieutenant Chermside's Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 359.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 512.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Philippopolis, Sulina, Angora.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 359.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 151.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 10, 1879.*

I BEG to inclose herewith a translation of an Order of the Day, signed by Aleko Pasha, and published in this evening's "Maritza," nominating a number of persons as Secretaries of Prefectures, "Baillis de Canton," and Councillors of Prefectures.

The accompanying article, published in the same number of the "Maritza," observes that, while the Prefects are all of Bulgarian race, four Greeks and three Turks have been named "Baillis de Canton" out of the total number of twenty-eight (? twenty-nine).

The "Maritza" contends that these appointments have been made on the strict basis of the Organic Statute, and that the statistics of the population of Eastern Roumelia show the following results:—

Bulgarians 500,000; Turks 70,000; Greeks 35,000.

In the Bulgarian portion of the paper, however, the population is given as follows:—

Bulgarians 530,000; Turks 75,000; Greeks 35,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 359.

Order of the Day, No. 3.

(Translation.)

ON the basis of the paragraphs 55, 113, and 117 of the Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia, and on the motion of the Director for Home Affairs, I appoint as Secretaries of the following Prefectures, and who will likewise fulfil the duties of "Baillis de Canton":—

N. Vlassakoff, Philippopolis; J. Mishaïkoff, Tatar-Bazardjik; D. Doushanoff, Haskeui; F. Manoff, Eski-Zaghri; Edretsoff, Slivno.

As "Baillis de Canton":—

J. Naïdenoff, Carlova; S. P. Stoïnofski, Orchekhiva; T. Milcoff, Keytchma; Mehmet Bey, Ruptchos (Rhodope); J. Courtovich, Stanimaka; M. Nachoff, Ibtiman; P. Pavloff, Panagurishte (Otlonkeui); Ch. Popoff, Peshtera; J. Kochoff, Hadji Elès; G. Belchoff, Harmanly; Halil Bey, Kyrdjali; P. Ivanoff, Kysanlyk; N. Ivanoff, Tchirpan; M. Kolaroff, Yeni-Zaghra; Grecoff, Yamboli; C. Baïchoff, Kotel (Kazan); A. Hieff, Kyzul Agatch.

As Councillors of Prefectures:—

A. Ganushgneurdan, Ts. D. Kabrishkoff, Philippopolis; M. Madjaroff, D. Yarakoff, Tatar-Bazardjik; Mustafa Efendi, Haskeui; R. Mirkoviteh, M. Galniazoff, Slivno.

The appointment of the above-mentioned Secretaries, Baillis de Canton, and Councillors, dates from the 1st June. I therefore order all of them to enter upon the performance of their duties.

May 27, 1879.

The Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia,
(Signed) A. VOGORIDES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 359.

Extract from the "Maritza" of $\frac{\text{May 31}}{\text{June 12}}$ 1879.

Ploudiv, le $\frac{\text{27 Mai}}{\text{9 Juin}}$, 1879.

LE Conseil Privé du Prince-Gouverneur travaille avec toute l'ardeur d'hommes qui ont conscience de la responsabilité qui pèse sur eux, à la mise en pratique du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale. Allant au plus pressé, le Conseil s'est tout d'abord occupé du choix du personnel administratif; il a déjà nommé les Préfets des six départements, les baillis des 28 cantons, et aujourd'hui ou demain il aura aussi arrêté son choix pour les Conseillers de Préfecture.

Nous ne doutons pas un seul instant que le Conseil Privé, se plaçant sur le terrain de la parfaite égalité des droits de tous les citoyens de la province sans distinction de race et de religion, ne fasse une juste distribution des emplois publics en prenant les fonctionnaires, conformément à l'Article 21 du Statut, parmi les plus capables de chaque nationalité.

Et en effet, nous avons vu que le Conseil a, en conformité de l'Article précité, confié tous les postes de Préfet à des Bulgares parce que ceux-ci possèdent dans tous les départements la majorité écrasante.

Dans le choix des baillis des vingt-huit cantons, on a un peu forcé au profit des minorités l'interprétation du susdit Article; mais nous serions loin de nous en plaindre, si cette concession devait servir l'œuvre de la réconciliation. Le Conseil a, d'après ce que nous apprenons, pris vingt et un baillis parmi les Bulgares, quatre parmi les Grecs et trois parmi les Turcs. Il a été en outre décidé que dans tous les cantons où le bailli est pris, suivant l'Article 21, dans la majorité, il y aura pour commissaire de police un représentant de la race qui est en minorité.

D'aussi justes et équitables décisions auraient dû, ce nous semble, contenter toutes les nationalités. Mais à notre profond regret une classe de nos concitoyens, se croyant lésée dans ses droits, proteste contre ces nominations. Au lieu d'entrer résolument dans la voie de la conciliation et du développement paisible, elle persiste dans ses anciennes prétentions qui ont tant nui à la chose publique et tant profité aux ennemis communs.

Nous ne nous abandonnons pas à l'illusion de convaincre jamais les Grecs de l'irrecevabilité de leurs prétentions. Mais, puisqu'ils mettent tout en œuvre pour

faire croire à l'Europe qu'ils ne jouissent pas des droits que leur accorde le Statut Organique dans la mesure de l'importance de leur population, nous nous voyons malgré nous amenés à parler encore une fois statistique.

L'année passée, à la veille de la réunion du Congrès de Berlin, la presse et les syllogues Grecs s'étaient donné le mot d'ordre d'appeler notre province "la terre la plus Hellénique." A force d'entendre une pareille qualification, le public Européen finit par croire sérieusement qu'il y a une population Grecque considérable dans notre province. Mais les études faites par la Commission Européenne sur place, ont bien vite dissipé tous les doutes sur le caractère essentiellement Bulgare de la "Roumélie Orientale," et nos concitoyens Grecs furent obligés à se rabattre sur le chiffre de 100,000 âmes.

La "Maritza" a, à différentes reprises, invité les Grecs de vouloir bien désigner au moins les localités dans lesquelles vivent ces 100,000 Hellènes ignorés de leurs concitoyens Bulgares. Mais les Grecs ont toujours fait et ils continueront à faire la sourde oreille, et pour cause.

C'est donc à nous de donner encore une fois des renseignements statistiques sur la composition de la population de la Roumélie Orientale. Les voici en chiffres ronds: 500,000 Bulgares, 70,000 Turcs, et 35,000 Grecs.

Dans la ville de Philippopoli même, ce centre de l'Hellénisme, l'élément Grec n'atteint pas un tiers de la population Bulgare, et, en dehors des cantons d'Akhylo-Messembria et de Kavakli, les Grecs ne forment la majorité dans aucun canton, bien entendu dans celui de Stanimakha non plus.

Nous savons d'avance que l'exactitude de ces données statistiques sera combattue par nos concitoyens Grecs. Aussi, croyons-nous qu'un des devoirs qui s'imposent le plus impérieusement à notre Gouvernement, c'est de procéder dans le plus bref délai à un recensement par race de la population de notre province. L'autorité indigène qui nous régit ne saurait tarder, dans l'intérêt de la paix publique même, de recourir à cette démonstration mathématique de l'insignifiance de l'élément Grec de la Roumélie Orientale.

Maintenant, le parti Hellénique pourra, même après que les autorités autonomes de notre province auront établi que les Grecs forment à peu près le vingtième partie de la population totale, se prévaloir de l'Article 24 du Statut disant que "les emplois, honneurs et fonctions publiques sont également accessibles à tous les indigènes suivant leurs aptitudes, leur mérite, et leur capacité." Mais leur prétentions se heurteront toujours à l'Article 21 suivant lequel il doit être tenu compte, pour les choix à faire, de la majorité des habitants des différentes circonscriptions.

Or, les circonscriptions sont de trois sortes: la province, le département, et le canton. L'écrasante majorité dans les deux premières sortes de circonscriptions étant Bulgares, tous les Directeurs et Préfets devaient être, conformément à l'Article 21, Bulgares. Sur ce point la loi a été donc scrupuleusement observée. Quant aux cantons, deux baillis seulement—ceux de Kavakli et d'Akhylo-Messembria, devraient être de nationalité Grecque. Eh bien, le Conseil Privé, désirant donner aux Grecs une preuve de son esprit de conciliation, a nommé des baillis Grecs aussi dans les cantons de Bourgas et de Stanimakha, où la population Grecque n'a cependant pas la majorité. Par les mêmes considérations, le Conseil a nommé des baillis Turcs dans les cantons de Rouptchoss, Kirdjali, et Aïdos.

Si donc nos concitoyens de quelle nationalité qu'ils soient, veulent sincèrement le développement et le progrès paisibles de notre province autonome, ils doivent se soumettre aux dispositions de la Constitution qui leur garantit, à eux comme à nous, un bel avenir. Que s'ils persistaient dans des prétentions injustifiables, ils ne feraient qu'exciter la majorité et la rendre ainsi plus exigeante, plus jalouse des droits que l'Europe lui a concédés par le Statut Organique. Le résultat d'un pareil état de choses ne saurait qu'être préjudiciable à ces minorités qui prétendent s'imposer aux cinq sixièmes de la population.

Inclosure 4 in No. 359.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 152.)
Philippopolis, June 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian Commissariat and Army Medical Staff left Philippopolis this day for Slivno.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 359.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 153.)
Philippopolis, June 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 1 of the 4th instant, inclosing a petition from the Mussulman inhabitants of the villages in the district of Ahiolon complaining of ill-treatment at the hands of their Bulgarian neighbours.

The Governor-General, to whom I handed the petition, promised to cause an immediate and strict inquiry to be made into that complaint, and the Secretary-General informed me to-day that instructions had already been sent with that object to the Prefect of Bourgas.

The latter came to see me a few days ago, and I took the opportunity of impressing upon him the absolute necessity of treating Turks, Greeks, and Bulgarians with equal justice, and I spoke to him strongly on the subject of the petition in question.

I shall not fail to watch his action in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 359.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 154.)
Philippopolis, June 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE not been able until this day to obtain a copy of the address herewith inclosed, which a section of the Bulgarians inhabiting this province forwarded to the Emperor of Russia through General Obrutchelf on the occasion of his late visit to Philippopolis.

I am able to state, on very good authority, that the General had required the presentation of such an address immediately after he had read the Imperial Proclamation, and that it was prepared at the Russian Consulate-General.

The original form was, however, so distasteful to the notables and villagers who had been summoned to sign it, that considerable modifications were introduced, particularly in the paragraph which I have marked No. 4, in which the Bulgarians had been called upon to testify their "blind submission" to the Imperial will.

The paragraph No. 5, relating to the occupation of the Balkans, was added at a later stage in order to secure a few more signatures; and in the original draft of the paragraph marked No. 7 the aspiration to union with Bulgaria was more strongly emphasized.

It was only on the occasion of his last visit to Philippopolis that General Obrutchelf succeeded, after much insistance, in procuring the signature of the address in its modified form, and even then the notables and peasants of Tatar-Bazardjik and several other districts refused to lend their hands to such a proceeding.

This incident may, I think, be taken as the first symptom of the absence of any real or lasting gratitude towards Russia on the part of the great bulk of the Bulgarian inhabitants of this province.

The "Maritza" of yesterday stated that the Russian Consul-General had conveyed His Imperial Majesty's thanks to the signatories of the address.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 359.

Address to the Emperor of Russia.

(Translation.)

Your Imperial Majesty,

WE have listened with reverential gratitude to the Imperial words brought to us by your Imperial Majesty's Ambassador, Aide-de-camp General Obrutchelf.

2. When the time approached for parting with the dear and valiant Russian troops who had delivered us from recent bondage, and who had opened out to us a new path of development, we could not but contemplate with fear the future that had been traced out for us by the Treaty of Berlin.

3. Your Imperial Majesty's instructions have, however, shown us that even in the future we shall not be deprived of the care which you have exercised for the preservation and consolidation of our rights, acquired at the price of enormous sacrifices.

4. Your Imperial will, Sire, is our law. We shall exert all our powers, give all our care, and make every effort, in order that, with the aid of the Almighty, we may, in the sight of Great and Holy Russia, develop those rights by a peaceful beginning, and by such means establish a sound basis for the welfare of our country.

5. We consider it to be our duty to express before the sacred person of your Majesty the fears we entertain of the occupation of the Balkans by the Turks, who, true to their nature, will inevitably seek to evoke disorders and collisions. With the aid, however, of God and of Russia such a state of things (conditions) will render us worthy to see accomplished the hereditary tendency of our nation, which we shall keep holy in our hearts.

Your Imperial Majesty,

6. The gratitude and devotion of the Bulgarian nation towards Russia is deeply rooted in our hearts; it will grow and be transmitted from generation to generation.

7. With profound regret we part with our magnanimous liberators; but, at the same time, with the consolatory thought that by striving strenuously to develop the principles of freedom and welfare laid down by Russia as the foundation of our new life we shall become worthy of the sacrifices made for us, and that we shall be united with Russia by a bond which nothing can ever sever.

8. We offer up warm prayers for your welfare, Sire, and for that of your house and people; and we venture to express the confident hope that your paternal care will never abandon the nation by which you are so fervently loved.

Inclosure 8 in No. 359.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,
Angora, June 7, 1879.

I BEG to inform your Excellency of my safe arrival here on Monday last, the 2nd instant.

My journey was rendered much more tedious and dangerous by the ruinous condition of the bridge over the Sakaria at a place called Hadji Hyder, nine hours from Sivrihissar, fifteen hours from Angora. The river at this point being too deep and broad to be fordable, a long and dangerous detour, prolonging the journey by twelve hours, becomes needful. As this is one of the principal outlets of the province, its whole export for Sivrihissar, Eskisheir, and Broussa passing this bridge, its present condition is a great obstruction to commerce. The merchants and inhabitants at Sivrihissar and here entreated me to take the matter up; so on my arrival here I called on the Governor-General, Khourshid Pasha, and handed him a formal Memorandum on the subject. He promised immediate attention to the request; but, as this is the third promise of the same kind that has been made me with reference to this broken bridge during the last year and a-half, it is doubtful whether it will be kept. I have accordingly to beg your Excellency, should you think it desirable, to forward a copy of the inclosed Memorandum ("Takrar") to the Ministry of Public Words, as were a little pressure applied from Constantinople the necessary repairs could be easily completed in a week. The reason why it is not attended to, thereby obstructing the commerce of a whole province, is so characteristic of interior administration as to be worth recording. The banks of the river on both sides are Crown lands, and, being uncultivated, have been conceded to two Government officials called Abdi Begh and Shishmanoglou Bodos, the permission to graze their cattle thereon being accorded them "in recognition of eminent public services." Besides pasturage, the land produces immense quantities of a cane-like reed, which has a market value in this

province for making mats, stools, &c. The bridge being passable, the muleteers, camel-drivers, and travellers collect small loads of these, in passing, for sale for a few paras on arrival in the towns; but when the highway is impassable, owing to the broken bridge, the reeds are left undisturbed till it suits the occupiers to collect and dispose of them. Hence they resist to the utmost orders of the local Government and the pressure of public opinion as well, though it is contended that the collection of these reeds is not included in their concession, whilst the keeping of the bridge certainly is.

I regret to have to report a fresh case of brigandage, on which subject I received a petition from the Christian notables of Sivrihissar, a copy and translation of which petition please find inclosed.

On calling the attention of the authorities to this painful case, I was informed, in reply, that the Government had called on the Kaïmakam of Mohalitch to give an account of the affair, and his conduct with regard to it. He replied at once resigning his post, and there, I am informed, the matter ends, no further proceedings being under consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 9 in No. 359.

Petition handed to Vice-Consul Gatheral by the Christian Notables of the Town of Sivrihissar, Vilayet of Angora, Asia Minor.

Sivrihissar, May $\frac{17}{31}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

WE, the Undersigned, on behalf of the entire Christian community of Sivrihissar, beg to call your attention to the following facts, and to entreat you, if it be possible, to forward a copy of the same to his Excellency the British Ambassador at Constantinople:—

An Armenian named Hadji Ohannes Tosounoglou, of Sivrihissar (a caza belonging to the Vilayet of Angora), some weeks ago sent off on business his brother Hadji Carabet, a young lad of about 15 years, along with his brother-in-law, Macarioz, to the neighbouring village of Coyoundjak. From thence the two men repaired to their goat farm in a distant district about four hours from the said village, and were looking after some sheep and goats, their own property. While thus engaged on the 10th May current they were attacked by four brigands, who carried off the younger (Hadji Carabet), at the same time ordering Macarioz to go and tell the brother that if he wished to rescue the lad safe and sound he must himself fetch the sum of T. £300 within twenty days, and that in case of default, or if any alarm should be given to the authorities, they (the brigands) would infallibly kill their hostage.

Hadji Ohannes, having learnt the sad news, immediately repaired to the Kaïmakam of Mohalitch, and, petition in hand, implored him to take measures for the rescue of his captive brother; but the Kaïmakam was deaf to all entreaties, merely observed that "the matter does not concern me at all, do whatever you like;" and, on fresh applications being addressed to him, ordered him "to be off and leave his presence at once." Whereupon, some of the villagers, friends of Hadji Ohannes, got themselves armed and presented themselves to the Kaïmakam, asking him to grant them a "booyoorooltoo," or permit, promising themselves to capture the brigands and rescue the hostage. Again the Kaïmakam, most unmindful of his duty, told them to go away and mind their own affairs. Thus disheartened and hopeless of any help from the authorities, Hadji Ohannes had no choice but to go and bargain for the life of his brother with the brigands, who, more humane than the Kaïmakam, delivered him up safe and sound on payment of a sum of T. £220. The loss of this large sum will surely ruin a poor and honest family, and it is feared the terror and fright the lad has undergone may yet tell a still sadder story.

Sir, we dare not make any comments on the conduct of the Kaïmakam of Mohalitch; the facts speak for themselves.

Signed on behalf of the Armenian and Greek Communities of Sivrihissar.

(Signed) KUPELLI OGLOU.
HELVAJIAN KIRIAKOS.
HELVAJIAN OHANNES.
SHAMLOO OGLOU.
YORGHI HARALAMBOS OGLOU.

No. 360.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 360.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 17, 1879.

I AM informed by Baron Orczy that no written answer has been returned to the representation of the Servian Government for an alteration of the frontier between the Principality and Bulgaria, as laid down by the Treaty of Berlin; but the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Belgrade has been informed that the Imperial Government will not countenance any departure from that arrangement.

If circumstances should make it appear desirable that at particular spots there should be some slight deviations of the line, it is considered that the Servian Government might point them out to the Delimitation Commission, which would give them every consideration compatible with their instructions and the spirit of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 361.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 361.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 17, 1879.

I AGAIN inquired yesterday whether there was any truth in the reports persistently circulated of the immediate occupation by the Imperial troops of the places at which they are to hold garrisons in the Novi-Bazar district, and was assured that there is not.

Before any such step is taken it will be necessary to ascertain the disposition of the populations and their means of providing for the maintenance of the troops and the lodging that may be found for them at the different points.

Nothing will therefore be decided till the reports have been received from officers to be sent to inquire into these points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 362.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 362 Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 18, 1879.

SIR HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF, by his telegram to your Lordship of the 5th instant, reported the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner to have intimated to Aleko Pasha that his Government wished him to be as independent as possible; and though such language may at first sight appear at variance with the views hitherto expressed by Count Andrassy, it is not, I believe, difficult to reconcile them.

He was, as your Lordship is aware, always averse to restrictions being placed upon the Sultan in regard to his territories not included in the Principality of Bulgaria, and he was only to a certain degree reconciled to the arrangement by which Eastern Roumelia was endowed with an autonomous Administration by the distinct provision in the Treaty that the province was to remain under the direct political and military authority of the Sultan. He was desirous that this should be secured under the new organization, and the point was especially insisted upon in M. Kallay's instructions; but the European Commission proceeded in a contrary direction, and the Organic Statute now about to be put in force leaves scarcely a vestige of direct authority to the Sultan, who, except as regards one or two superior officers of militia, can neither appoint nor dismiss a civil or military functionary in the province, and the whole executive authority is permanently delegated to an irremovable Governor-General, who has necessarily to be selected less for any supposed aptitude for the post than with a view to securing the requisite unanimous sanction of the Powers.

Count Andrassy has little faith in the capacity of the people of European Turkey for the large measure of self-government that has been made over to them; and though

he would have preferred the authority of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia to the full extent indicated by the terms of the Treaty, I have no doubt that, as things now stand, he considers that energy and independence on the part of the Governor-General are indispensable for the proper administration of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 363.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 363.) *Vienna, June 19, 1879.*

My Lord,

SIR HENRY LAYARD, on the 6th instant, reported to your Lordship that he understood the Porte to have sent instructions to the Turkish Ambassadors in London and in Vienna to request the British and Austrian Governments to agree that the Governor of East Roumelia shall not be required to act upon the advice of the Commission as to the necessity of calling in the Ottoman troops, or as to any other matter provided for by the Treaty of Berlin.

Edhem Pasha assures me that up to the present time he has received no instructions to make any representation on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 364.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 364. Confidential.) *Vienna, June 19, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador tells me that, with a view to leading the Sultan to lay aside his excessive distrust of Austria, he had reported direct to His Majesty the conversation he had had with me, which I mentioned to your Lordship in my despatch No. 343 of the 4th instant, and had represented that the opinion of one so well known for his friendly feeling towards Turkey was deserving of His Majesty's consideration.

The suspicion which I had formed after my first conversation with the Ambassador, of it being intended that he should transact his business chiefly through the Sultan himself, was confirmed by his telling me that he had made no mention of this conversation to Carathéodory Pasha, since everything that was written to the Porte was immediately made known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 365.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 365. Confidential.) *Vienna, June 19, 1879.*

My Lord,

IT appears that Count Andrássy has been displeased that the Porte should not have conferred upon the Duke of Wurtemberg, who commands the Imperial troops in Bosnia, an Ottoman decoration that had been asked for for him, and Edhem Pasha has been instructed to explain that it has not been finally refused, though the present was not considered a favourable moment for giving it.

The Duke of Wurtemberg has shown much consideration for the Mussulman populations, his conduct having afforded a marked contrast to that of General Philippovics, but considering what must be felt about the Austrian occupation by the great mass of the Sultan's subjects, it is not easy to understand how such a request came to be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 366.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 24 Juin, 1879.*

EN me référant à la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 18 de ce mois en réponse à la dépêche de son Excellence Carathéodory Pacha relativement à certaines difficultés qui se sont élevées au sein de la Commission de Délimitation du Monténégro, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que je viens de recevoir de mon Gouvernement une dépêche télégraphique m'autorisant à déclarer à votre Excellence que cette Commission a et aura un libre accès partout et sur tous les points qu'elle voudra visiter; que le Ministère Impérial de la Guerre a transmis à cet égard des ordres catégoriques aux autorités militaires de Scutari; et que je puis donner à ce sujet à votre Excellence les assurances le plus formelles.

En m'acquittant par cette communication des instructions contenues dans la dépêche télégraphique précitée de mon Gouvernement, je saisis l'occasion de réitérer à votre Excellence les assurances de la très-haute considération avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 367.

General Stanton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Munich, June 23, 1879, 11·30 P.M.*

I AM requested by Prince of Bulgaria to forward following message to Her Majesty.

His Highness has received the following Secret telegram from Count Ostensaken to M. de Stael, Darmstadt, 22nd June:—

"Very urgent. Beg you to communicate to Prince of Bulgaria that Labanoff telegraphs to me: 'The state of over-excitement in which the Mussulman population and the large number of fugitives have been for some time cause the Porte to fear that the arrival of Prince Alexander at Constantinople, and the honours which will be paid him, may give rise to disorders. Carathéodory Pasha begs me consequently to inform the Prince that the Porte would wish to avoid his visit at the present moment.

"'The Firman could be sent direct to His Highness in Bulgaria by a Mushir.'"

His Highness begs the advice of the Queen. He believes the Sultan sees matters too gloomily, and would much regret not being able to make this visit. Should, however, the Porte insist upon not seeing him at Constantinople, His Highness intends, to prevent misunderstanding, to demand of the Porte to communicate to the Cabinets that they have begged him not to come to Constantinople.

His Highness leaves for Rome to-morrow morning, and will be at the German Embassy there on Wednesday.

No. 368.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24, 10·20 A.M.)

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 24, 1879, 8 A.M.*

ACCORDING to information received by the Servian Government, Austria is gradually massing troops on the Novi-Bazar frontier, where population is preparing to resist their advance, having posted men to watch passes, and already raised fortifications at several points.

Insurgent or brigand bands have begun to appear in Bosnia, and to render communications insecure.

No. 369.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Kirby Green.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 24, 1879, 12·55 P.M.*

PLEASE give Captain Sale following message:—

"In reply to your telegram of 22nd instant, Sir H. Layard was instructed by telegraph on the 9th instant to continue to press on the Porte the demands of the Commission for removal and punishment of obstructions to their operations.

"He appeared to be hopeful of obtaining the recall of Hussein Pasha."

No. 370.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24, 3·25 P.M.)

(No. 496.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 24, 1879, 12·5 P.M.*

BERATS for the Vice-Consuls in Asia Minor have been issued.

No. 371.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 24, 1879.*

FIRST Commissioner of France not yet returned.

Second Commissioner, after expressing readiness to support proposed motions in principle, now doubts whether he will be justified in discussing them after declaration of his Chief in regard to his instructions. The main object of Austrian Commissioner is evidently to establish discord as regards instructions and functions of the Commissioners, and to prove inutility and helplessness of the Commission. Under these circumstances, I have thought it more prudent to adjourn meeting called for to-morrow on ground of absence of Secretary with minutes of the last meeting.

Since Greek petition affords a convenient pretext, does your Lordship consider it advisable that, regardless of the consequences contemplated by Austrian Commissioner, I should, nevertheless, bring forward motions in order [? to break] silence [? of] British, Austrian, and Turkish Commissioners, [? which might be] considered as a tacit approval of the action of the Governor-General [four groups unintelligible] or let [?]?

No. 372.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, May 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to state that, in compliance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Embassy, I left Diarbekir on the 16th instant, and came by the direct (Tchibakchoor) route to Erzeroum, where I arrived on the 25th instant.

The route followed was the same as that by which I proceeded to Diabekir in December last year.

For several days prior to my departure a copious supply of rain fell, which had it come a few weeks earlier would have saved the crops; as it is, I fear it was too late to be of much benefit in the southern districts of the vilayet (about Diarbekir and in the direction of Aleppo and Mosul), where the wheat and barley crops on irrigated land are almost a total failure, and where there is little or no grass.

I was, however, extremely pleased to learn as I travelled northward that the rain had fallen there some days earlier, and as the district traversed is very elevated, and the season much later, the rain had not only saved the crops from destruction, but there was every promise of a good supply of grass and a very fair harvest. This is the

* This was repeated to Constantinople to-day, together with Consul Kirby Green's of June 22.

ease right up to Erzeroum, where the prospects of the harvest are now good, and where prices have fallen considerably during the past three weeks.

At Haïni, a large Christian village, two days north of Diarbekir, I found that an epidemic of small-pox had been recently raging, which had carried off more than 100 children in the last few weeks, *i.e.*, about one to every seven houses.

In passing through the Tchabakchoor district (north of the Moorad Su), the state of which when I passed through in December I represented* as most deplorable, I was glad to find that a much better state of things now exists. At the village of Madrak, where I had been previously assailed with the most bitter complaints, I was told by the villagers that they had passed a comparatively quiet winter, and that at present they had nothing new to complain of.

Further north again I found the country quite quiet, and in passing through the eastern portion of the Geghi district (the state of which I observe in the recent Blue Books has been recently under notice of Her Majesty's Government) I inquired at two villages, one Kurdish, and the other Christian, what was thought of the present Kaimakam, Mahommed Ali Bey. At both places I was told by the villagers that they had never had such an excellent Ruler before, a satisfactory sequence to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador's exertions for the better government of that district.

The country I have traversed is quiet; caravans were passing along the road to and from Erzeroum, and I heard of no instance of recent robberies. This is probably due to the fact of some of the leading district Aghas being in arrest in Erzeroum.

On the whole, the state of the country is far more satisfactory than when I passed through some five months ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 373.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 12. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, June 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 6, Confidential, of the 24th April, acquainting me with the instructions given by your Lordship to Colonel Wilson on his appointment as Consul-General in Anatolia, and desiring me to act in concert generally with Colonel Wilson in all questions in which we are jointly concerned.

It is hardly necessary that I should state that Colonel Wilson will have my cordial co-operation in carrying out the objects your Lordship has in view.

I have read with care the printed Memorandum, dated the 31st March, by Colonel Wilson on the duties of Her Majesty's Consul-General and Vice-Consuls in Anatolia, copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch, and the proposals contained in which your Lordship generally approved of.

So entirely do I agree with Colonel Wilson that accurate information can only be obtained in the East by personal observation and intercourse with the people that several months ago I proposed for your Lordship's sanction (No. 4 of the 19th January), that I should make a tour through my own extensive jurisdiction, *i.e.*, in the Vilayets of Diarbekir, Van, Erzeroum, and the Sandjak of Kharput, which would have occupied the greater part of the present year. Your Lordship's sanction (Foreign Office despatch No. 4 of the 14th March) to my proposal was received on the 26th April, but a few days subsequently I received telegraphic instructions from Her Majesty's Envoy Plenipotentiary that I was to proceed direct to Erzeroum to join the Imperial Commissioners recently appointed for the introduction of reforms into the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van.

I have learned from Her Majesty's Ambassador since arrival in Erzeroum that Her Majesty's Government attaches great importance to the work of the Commission: in the words of Sir Henry Layard, "as the future of a large part of Asia Minor is likely to be involved in the success of its labours." Entirely concurring as I do in this estimate of the importance of the mission, and the heavy responsibilities of the

* Despatch No. 1, Political, of 1879, to Secretary of State.

position I now occupy with respect thereto, I feel bound to represent to your Lordship that in view of the great number of important questions which will come before the Commission for report and ultimate settlement, it is highly desirable that, while attached to the Commission, I be relieved from as much extraneous work as possible.

I observe that for Anatolia proper your Lordship has appointed a Consul-General with five Vice-Consuls and two Student Interpreters under his orders, and that it is proposed that the whole of these officers should be employed for the next several months in travelling about the country and obtaining information as to its resources and condition.

On the other hand, for the collection of similar information in the frontier vilayets, far more important than the others in a purely military point of view, I shall have the assistance of one Vice-Consul only; while my own time will, or, at all events, ought to be, almost exclusively taken up with the administrative work of the Imperial Commission.

In paragraph 19 of Colonel Wilson's Memorandum it is stated that "the presence of Russian Consuls would seriously interfere with any efforts the British Consuls might make to improve the government of the country."

I do not entirely agree with Colonel Wilson on that point; on the contrary, in the absence of a British Representative at Diarbekir, I am pleased to know, in the interests of the mass of the population, that there is at the present moment a Russian Consul there. But in case Her Majesty's Government think otherwise, I would beg respectfully to point out that I have to combat the supposed evil influences of a Russian Consul-General, a Military Attaché, and a Chancelier at Erzeroum, a Consul at Diarbekir, and a Vice-Consul at Van: whereas Colonel Wilson has none of these influences to counteract, the Russians not having hitherto nominated any Consular officers to Anatolia proper.

I would also point out that in Anatolia proper the Turkish language is the one most generally used both by officials and people. It is the language used by the Armenians about Kaisariyeh, whereas in the districts under my supervision, in addition to Turkish, we have Armenian, Arabic, two dialects of Kurdish, and two dialects of Syriac. It is needless to say that this confusion of tongues adds greatly to the difficulties of obtaining reliable information about the state of the country. In a recent tour in the Mardin district, I had, within a space of three days, to employ seven different languages in communicating with the people, viz., English, French, Turkish, Armenian, Arabic, Kurdish, and Turani, a dialect of Syriac.

I have no Student Interpreter and no Chancelier, and, in fact, have hitherto had no one but myself to depend upon for the affairs of the frontier vilayets; the consequence of which has been, through no fault of mine, that during the winter Her Majesty's Government has been practically in complete ignorance of what was passing in the Erzeroum and Van vilayets.

Your Lordship has recently nominated one Vice-Consul to serve under my orders; but to put me more on a par with Colonel Wilson in his means of obtaining information, I would respectfully represent that it is highly desirable that at least two more Vice-Consuls should be placed under my orders, so that the English Government may be permanently represented in the Erzeroum, Van, and Diarbekir vilayets. The officer appointed for Diarbekir might also supervise the independent Sandjak of Kharput, part of which separates Diarbekir proper from Malatia, one of its dependent sandjaks.

Even if Her Majesty's Government decide not to appoint so many officers permanently, I would beg that some officer be temporarily appointed as Vice-Consul for Erzeroum for as long as I am attached to the Imperial Commission for Reforms.

I have, while writing the present despatch, received a confidential Memorandum from Colonel Wilson, written for the guidance of Her Majesty's Representatives in drawing up military reports. It is absolutely impossible that I can satisfactorily attend at the same time to the working of the Commission and to the preparation of details for a military report. Either work would fully occupy my whole time. As the work of the Commission is of the more pressing importance, and as its labours are already commenced, I would respectfully request that a specially qualified Military Vice-Consul be immediately appointed for Erzeroum, specially to take up the military question.

Should financial or other difficulties stand in the way of my proposal, I would beg to suggest that one of the five Vice-Consuls under the orders of Colonel Wilson might, with advantage, be temporarily employed in Erzeroum Vilayet (the most important of the frontier provinces in a military point of view, and containing the

only existing fortress in Asiatic Turkey), instead of in one of the more remote provinces of the Empire, which cannot compare in importance with Erzeroum in a military point of view, as Colonel Wilson himself would, I am sure, freely admit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

P.S.—A copy of this despatch will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador, and a copy of the last part will be sent to Colonel Wilson.

H. T.

No. 374.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, June 7, 1879.*

SOME weeks ago some Turkish cavalry soldiers occupied two villages near Olti which the Russians maintain are within their boundary line. The matter was reported at the time by the Russian officer commanding on the frontier to M. Obermuller, the Russian Consul-General here, who apparently took no special notice of the complaint; but a few days ago M. Obermuller received a telegram from the Chief of the Staff of the Army of the Caucasus, in which he was directed to protest against the occupation, and insist on the evacuation, of the two villages. The Pasha, after some little delay, has sent an officer to the spot to order the troops to withdraw, but on condition that the villages shall remain unoccupied by either party until the question of proprietorship has been decided by the Frontier Commission. M. Obermuller, accompanied by Major Kamsaragan, a Military Attaché to the Consulate, proceeded yesterday to Olti (on the Russian side of the frontier) to see that matters were satisfactorily arranged, but I believe that his journey was really in great part due to a wish to visit Olti on private affairs.

I have discussed the matter both with the Vali Pasha and with the Russian Consul-General, neither of whom attach any serious importance to the affair, which probably originated as a freak on the part of some subordinate officer. At the same time a dispute of this kind might at any time give rise to very serious consequences, and it is much to be desired, in the interests of all parties concerned, that the Commissioners for the delimitation of the new boundary should commence their labours *in situ* at as early a date as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 375.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord *Erzeroum, June 7, 1879.*

DR. LANZONI, the Sanitary Commissioner for the Erzeroum Vilayet, has just returned here from a tour along the whole length of the Turco-Persian and Turco-Russian frontier. He describes the state of the Christian population along the whole line as one of great misery and destitution, caused by their sufferings and losses during the war. At present the country is tolerably quiet.

Dr. Lanzoni states that the Persians are intriguing with the Kurds and other inhabitants of the country between Khotour and Lake Van, including the villages of Moola Hassan, half-way between Khotour and Van, with a view of getting them to declare that the whole of that country forms a part of Khotour proper, apparently with the hope of extending the new Persian frontier up to very near the shore of Lake Van.

Dr. Lanzoni also states that some three weeks ago a military expedition was being

sent from Bash Kaleh* to collect forcibly from the Nestorian Christians their arrears of taxes.

The Nestorians appear to have been in partial revolt, and the Patriarch, Mar Shimoon, had, I am told, informed the Turkish authorities that he could not induce his people to listen to reason. Large numbers of the Nestorians had been disarmed and deprived of their Martini-Henry and Winchester rifles, of which it appears they had amassed a considerable number during the late war. I cannot learn that there has been any fighting.

In the Dersim districts, south of Erzinjian, Dervish Pasha, who has his temporary head-quarters at Kharput is operating against the insurgents with over thirty battalions of regulars. Troops have been withdrawn from all quarters for the purpose and, as far as I can make out, there is a strict blockade of the whole Dersim country, no ingress or egress being permitted. It appears that Dervish Pasha is acting quite independently of the Vali here, and the latter professes,—and I believe with reason,—to be ignorant of what is going on. His Excellency told me yesterday that he had written to the Mutessarif of Erzinjian for a detailed report as to the state of affairs, and he promised to communicate with me when he received it. It is generally believed that Dervish Pasha will extort large sums of money from the Dersimlis to put into his own pocket.

M. Obermuller has informed me that a few weeks ago, while a military road was being constructed in the Adjara district near Ardahan, the Lazis rose and overpowered a Russian detachment, killing twenty men. Five battalions were subsequently sent against the insurgents, and a crushing revenge was taken. The country is now quiet.

Since my arrival here I have learned that Major Kamsiragan, of the Russian cavalry,—an Armenian by birth,—who was the head of the Erzeroum police during the Russian occupation, has been for the past four months in Erzeroum, as an Attaché to the Consulate. He informs me that he has been offered the post of Acting Vice-Consul at Van, the officer named to that post having been appointed to do duty with the Commission for the delimitation of the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 376.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 19. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, June 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of this day to Sir Henry Layard relative to my representations to Suleiman Pasha, the new military Commandant of Menlik, in behalf of the Bulgarian Protestants in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 376.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 7, 1879.*

THE Liva Suleiman Pasha, who arrived here by yesterday's boat from Constantinople, has been appointed to the command of the troops in the district of Menlik.

He was good enough to call upon me, and I availed myself of the opportunity to speak to him of the position of the small Protestant community of Bulgarians in the village of Bansko, included in his command.

He kindly promised me that he will visit Bansko, to make inquiries respecting these Protestants, and to take measures for their protection and tranquillity.

Suleiman Pasha spoke to me in high terms of the kind assistance he received from

* Vilayet of Van.

Her Majesty's Representative at Bucharest in conducting his negotiations with the Roumanian authorities for the exchange of prisoners of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 377.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, June 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, together with copy of its inclosure relative to Bulgarian affairs in Macedonia, and to the quiet and submissive temper of the Christian population of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 377.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 9, 1879.*

I HAVE received from a Greek source the inclosed statement relative to the efforts which are made by the "Uniate" Bishop Nilos to induce the Bulgarian Christians of Macedonia to disown their allegiance to the Greek Patriarchate in favour of the Roman Church.

The impression prevails here that this religious movement is a mere make-believe, covering political designs in the Slav interest, and that Austria encourages and supports it through her Consular Agents, in the hope of rendering it subservient to her views.

The leading Greeks at Salonica, who apprehend that the approaching advance of Austria to Yeni-Bazar will eventually lead, if not to her occupation of Salonica, at least to the extension of Panslavism in this direction, are annoyed and somewhat irritated, and use redoubled vigilance in watching and counteracting any religious or political encroachments likely to endanger Hellenic influence and aspirations in Macedonia, it is therefore probable that they have attached an exaggerated importance to the alleged intrigues of Bishop Nilos.

But be this as it may, this Prelate and those acting with him have not as yet made much impression on the Bulgarians of this province, who, from all I collect from independent sources, do not seem prepared or willing to listen to their suggestions.

I have also the satisfaction to report to your Excellency that, according to the accounts which reach me from the interior, and which are confirmed by the Ottoman authorities and by some of my foreign colleagues, the Christian inhabitants of Macedonia, and I more particularly refer to the Bulgarians in the northern districts of Salonica, contiguous to the Principality of Bulgaria, are very quiet, and actively engaged gathering in their crops, which, fortunately, are above the average in quantity and quality this year.

The armed bands of insurgents who recently came over from Bulgaria have signally failed in their attempt to incite the Christians to rise against the Sultan's authority; and, as the Bulgarian peasants took no part in this movement, the military authorities have had little difficulty in suppressing it and re-establishing order in the invaded districts.

This quiet and submissive temper of the Bulgarians in these parts, of which they have given ample proofs during the late events (within the last twelve months they have discountenanced more than one insurrectionary movement set on foot by the Slav Committees in Bulgaria proper and Eastern Roumelia), should be fostered and promoted by the Porte; and I humbly venture to suggest that the measures best calculated to effect this desirable object, and which at the same time will afford the most probable means of thwarting these intermittent Slav manifestations are in the first place to initiate a conciliatory policy in lieu of the régime of military law which reigns in full force in this province, and is by no means warranted by the actual state

of affairs; and in the next to hasten the introduction of the reforms promised under the Treaty of Berlin, above all an efficient gendarmerie, the want of which is a subject of general complaint to all classes of the population.

I am assured that the amount of money disbursed by the Provincial Treasury of Salonica for police purposes will almost suffice to meet the cost of organizing and maintaining a gendarmerie on the same footing as that introduced in the Vilayet of Adrianople, so that the Porte cannot very well attribute to financial distress its alleged inability to institute this most needful reform in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 377.

Statement of Bulgarian Affairs in Macedonia.

DEPUIS le schisme les Bulgares travaillaient par l'entremise de l'Exarque à établir dans le Caïmacamlic d'Avret Issar (Evêché de Polyana) une église Bulgare, sans y réussir. Dernièrement l'Exarchat ayant perdu de son influence à cause de la dernière guerre, les Bulgares se sont attachés aux Unites (Chrétiens Orthodoxes reconnaissant la suprématie du Pape) se flattant de parvenir à leur but qui est tout simplement de Bulgariser ces contrées grâce à leur concours.

Il y a quelque temps l'Archêveque Unite Nilos est arrivé a Kilkissi, chef-lieu du Caïmacam; les habitants Bulgares de cette petite ville mirent à sa disposition leurs églises; il est a noter cependant que ces églises ne leur appartiennent pas, mais qu'ils en avaient pris possession par la violence lors du schisme, en chassant les vrais propriétaires, c'est-à-dire les Orthodoxes soumis au Patriarcat Œcuménique. Les Bulgares ont cru en agissant de cette façon servir les intérêts du Bulgarisme et employer l'influence de Nilos et des Unites à leur profit; tandis que ceux-ci profitant de la naïveté des Bulgares et de leurs adhérents, flattent leur façon de voir et ne visent qu'à la destruction de ses deux ennemis—l'Eglise Orthodoxe et l'Eglise Bulgare—bien entendu qu'ici le mot Eglise est synonyme de nationalité; en un mot les Bulgares ne pouvant plus combattre l'Hellénisme avec ses propres forces, ont appelés à leur secours les Unites, qui en apparence ont l'air de servir la politique Bulgare, mais sous main ils agissent pour leur propre compte en faveur du Catholicisme, et servent les intérêts d'une grande Puissance Catholique (l'Autriche-Hongrie).

De Kilkissi, Monseigneur Nilos se rendit à Bogdantza (village du Caïmaclic d'Avret Issar) appelé par les Bulgares. Il n'y a dans ce village qu'une seule église et elle appartient aux Grecs Orthodoxes, qui refusèrent à Monseigneur Nilos la permission de célébrer le service divin dans leur église (comme étant disciple du Pape), en lui disant de s'entendre avec le Gouvernement Local, et de bâtir une église pour ses coreligionnaires. Furieux de se voir refuser l'église, il se sert de tous les moyens possibles pour soulever les Orthodoxes contre le Patriarcat Œcuménique, de sorte que depuis son arrivée cette éparchie est sens dessus dessous.

Non contant de vouloir ériger une Eglise Bulgare sous le couvert de l'Unitisme, à force d'intrigues de toute sorte, il est parvenu dans quelques villages à enlever le cachet de la communauté des mains des Orthodoxes pour le confier entre celles des Bulgares et de leurs adhérents, qui, de cette façon, ont toute liberté d'agir et peuvent sans aucune surveillance cacheter tout écrit servant les intérêts Bulgares, et de ceux qui les soutiennent. Comme preuve nous citons ce qui s'est passé au village de Guevgueli; dans ce village, par l'entremise du Caïmacam, le cachet de la communauté a été pris des mains du Kodjabâssi Haggi Thanos (Orthodoxe) et donné à Christo Naoum (Bulgare), malgré l'ordre écrit du Vali au Caïmacam de ne confier le cachet qu'à un Orthodoxe relevant du Patriarcat Œcuménique. A la suite de cet acte tout le village est plongé dans le plus profond désespoir.

No. 378.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 25.*)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, June 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of my despatch of this day to Sir Henry Layard, marked Confidential, with copies of its three inclosures, respecting the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 378.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 14, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, to your Excellency, two letters marked private from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, dated respectively the 31st ultimo and the 7th instant, accompanied by copy of a private letter from Mr. Macdonald, correspondent of the "Times" at Janina, in which the Province of Epirus is represented as being in a very unquiet and critical state.

It is unfortunately too true, that that province is in a very unsatisfactory condition, caused partly by brigandage, which is assuming very serious proportions, and partly by the agitation which is actively carried on by the Albanian Beys against the proposed annexation of their country to Greece; but from what I hear from persons who pass through here on their way to and from Thessaly and Epirus, nothing has so far transpired to justify the apprehension of impending massacres and disturbances against the Christian inhabitants of those provinces.

On the contrary, it seems that the Tosca Albanians, while determined to resist annexation, are anxious to do nothing against the native Christians likely to discredit their cause in the eyes of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 378.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul-General Blunt.

(Private.)
My dear Sir, *Prevesa, May 31, 1879.*

I INCLOSE copy of a letter addressed me by Mr. Macdonald, correspondent of the "Times," on the state of affairs at Janina.

I also received, on the 29th instant, a despatch from Mr. Kypriotis, reporting the formation of a battalion of zaptiehs, 600 strong, alluded to by Mr. Macdonald.

One hundred of these new zaptiehs have been sent to Arta, 100 to Grevena, 50 to Metzovo, 150 to Konitza, and 200 to Zagori.

As regards the telegram supposed to have been sent to Moslems of Janina by Abedin Bey, Mr. Kypriotis makes no mention of it; and as to the threatened massacre I am afraid it is the old story, although the Albanians in their letter to Lord Salisbury which was forwarded through me to the Embassy a short time ago, say that they mean to fight for their fatherland. So something might take place, but this intended massacre of Christians was going to be carried out on so many occasions, that I am somewhat disinclined to believe in it any more.

What appears to me to be a very serious affair, is the state of insecurity that exists throughout the whole of Epirus, owing to the rural districts being entirely in the hands of outlaws, who may be counted by the hundred.

Mr. Kypriotis' despatches almost always contain some act of brigandage, and I regret to say that acts of this nature reach us from all quarters, and they are becoming so frequent now that it is almost impossible to give a detailed account of each capture or murder.

Some forty Turks, natives of this sandjak, have been brought here, and I told it

is intended to supply them with rifles and then send them to various places where brigands are supposed to be lurking.

All the battalions of Albanian Redifs have now left Prevesa, and, strange to say, night thefts have almost entirely stopped since their departure.

Hassan Pasha, the new Military Commander for Janina, came here the other day, and left very early next morning for his own post.

I was nearly forgetting to state that the two companies of Redifs that have been sent to Zagori to protect that district against the brigands, are behaving in a shameful manner.

They even outraged a young woman there.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 378.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul-General Blunt.

(Private.) *Prevesa, June 7, 1879.*

My dear Sir,

I HEAR that the Cadi of Prevesa has been ordered to proceed to Constantinople, and that he leaves by the Austrian steamer to-morrow.

His absence, which I hope will last for a long time, will be felt a good deal by the Albanians, who look upon him as one of their ablest leaders, so much so that he goes by the name of "Hadji Solia." A certain Sadik Carabetzo is also going to Constantinople.

Some fifteen or twenty Beys and Aghas are here; they have no doubt come to take leave of the Cadi.

I regret to say that brigandage is spreading everywhere. Two more men have been captured near Arta, and another man, who had been captured some time since, has been murdered.

Mr. Kypriotis reports that a band of about forty brigands entered the house of a Cadi at Libikovo (Argyrocastro), and murdered the Cadi.

We have several cases of small-pox in town, but up to this no deaths. At Arta, however, it is very bad.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 378.

Mr. Macdonald to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

Janina, May 18, 1879.

Dear Sir,

I ARRIVED here three weeks ago from London, and hoped ere this to have had the pleasure of seeing you at Prevesa, but have been prevented. It is likely, however, I may leave here for Arta in a few days.

Matters, however, here are in a most critical state, and I cannot leave until I see positively what these Turks are about. I am very much afraid that serious mischief is intended, so much so that I feel impelled at once to communicate with you on the subject.

The threat made by the Mussulmans here, as reported by Mr. Blunt in his despatch dated August 28th, 1878, I am afraid is about being carried out. During the last ten days probably about 400 Albanians have been brought here from Tepelen, Premeti, and Kolonia, ostensibly to be enrolled for service against the brigands in the district of Zagori.

Between 200 and 300 came in under charge of soldiers of the regular army. I have seen several squads of them enter the town under similar circumstances. At first I understood that they were to be regularly enrolled and uniformed as zaptiehs, but such, I have ascertained since, is not exactly the fact.

They are, however, being armed with breechloaders, and are quartered for the most part at the different khans. We have already 300 or 400 Tcherkesses here, and those quartered at Berat during the winter are being brought into Janina. I have further ascertained that besides eight or ten battalions of troops quartered here there is a large number of irregulars and some regulars in the Zaghori and Konitza districts.

The people here are very much alarmed at these proceedings, and fear something in the shape of a massacre in order to sustain Abedin Bey's and Moukhtar Pasha's line of defence at Prevesa.

After carefully weighing the whole facts of the case, an outline merely of which I send you, I believe there is great danger of something of the kind.

In the morning I am to be supplied with a copy of a telegram sent by Abedin Bey to the Moslems here, but the gentlemen who takes this note leaves early in the morning, too early for me to send you a copy of it. It, however, urges the Moslems of Janina to threaten massacre or revolution or armed opposition to the cession of the province to Greece. These Albanians are not wanted for any honest purpose, and the lives of many people here are at stake.

I will only add that I am known to Sir Charles Scbright, and have through him sent my despatches to the "Times" and . . . (Mr. Blakeney states that he cannot make out the name of the latter journal), of which latter I am special correspondent.

I send a courier on Tuesday to catch the Thursday's mail to London, sending full particulars. I have already sent some information, but to-day only have been able to fathom the diabolical mystery.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. MACDONALD.

P.S.—Probably Mr. Kypriotis has already written you. He knows the facts.
A. M.

No. 379.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 49. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, June 12, 1879.*

A CERTAIN passage in one of my despatches published in the "Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Crete (Turkey No. 4, 1879)" has given a good deal of umbrage to the Cretan Chiefs living in Athens, and to not a few here, some of whom are in the pay of Greece. I refer to the statement I made to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard in my despatch No. 90 of the 22nd July, 1878, viz., "that influential insurgents assure me that I had but to give the signal and the English flag would be raised from one end of the island to the other."

The Cretan Chiefs in Athens appear to have met together to contradict the above statement, and the *no* has been given to their comrades here to collect signatures from the inhabitants protesting that it was not true that they had applied to me with the view of obtaining British protection. The Vice-Consul in Rethymo informs me that inasmuch as many refuse to sign the desired declaration, appeals are made to their patriotic feelings, and they are told that if they withhold their signatures Greece will refuse on some future day to supply them with money and arms. British rule in Cyprus is held up to them as a warning, and stories of the ill-treatment of Greek priests that have circulated in public prints are repeated with the usual exaggerations. I am informed that it is the intention of the promoters of these declarations to have them brought to the notice of Her Majesty's Government to prove how groundless are the statements made by me.

Whether this matter will ever be brought to your Lordship's notice I cannot say, and I only mention it by way of information. I am not surprised at the Greeks of the kingdom being incredulous about some of my statements, as they are led to believe by the Cretan Chiefs in the pay of their Government that their countrymen in Crete are sighing for annexation to that kingdom. I never denied that there was a very considerable portion of the Cretan Christians who were anxious for the union of their island with Greece, but when the petitions for British protection were addressed to me the Representatives of the Powers assembled in Berlin had just refused to sanction that union, and the people in their despair hoped that England would take them in charge instead of forcing them to make their peace with Turkey again. The movement was perfectly natural, and several of the petitions remain in the archives of this Consulate to testify to its reality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 380.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 50. Political.)

Canea, Crete, June 16, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard in answer to a telegram received from him, informing me of the Sultan's having approved the decision of the Council of Ministers granting the demands of the Cretan General Assembly.

The favourable decision of the Council thus approved by His Majesty the Sultan is a matter of very great importance, and will tend to put a stop to the intrigues of those who are unfavourable to the present arrangement. The definitive grant, moreover, of half the customs duties for administrative purposes will furnish the means for keeping up a respectable force of gendarmes, and thus of providing against anarchy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 380.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, June 16, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 13th instant, your Excellency's telegram of the previous day, stating that you had been informed by the Grand Vizier that the Sultan had approved the decision come to by the Council of Ministers granting the demands of the Cretan Assembly, and that Photiades Pasha would immediately return with it.

This telegram happily confirmed the opinion which had begun to prevail, that the visit of the Vali to Constantinople had been completely successful. I now hear that his Excellency has deferred his departure from the capital for another week, so that he will not be back till the 23rd instant. He will find a cordial reception awaiting him, and he will be able to proceed at once with the important task of organizing the gendarmerie, for whose payment some provision is made now that half the proceeds of the customs can be drawn upon for that purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 381.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 89. Political.)

Scutari, June 13, 1879.

My Lord,

ONE of the dangers to the Turkish Government, of calling into existence the Albanian League, which I have had the honour of noting several times in my Reports, appears to be at last claiming the attention of the local authorities.

In most of the North Albanian towns committees were formed, composed of native Nobles and Ulemas, for developing and giving expression to the national will, by which it was hoped that effectual resistance would be offered to the changes which had been accepted in principle by the Porte; but as the Turkish Administration is not sufficiently satisfactory to be considered unimprovable by any section of the population, even the Committees of the Albanian League forgot the source of their existence, and assumed functions which they had been intended merely to feign.

In the important Mahommedan town of Elbassan the League Committee was composed of the Mufti and all the influential Beys and Aghas of the place, and as the surrounding country had become a prey to brigandage and other disorders through the weakness of the Turkish officials, the Committee proclaimed that it would take charge of the police and the administration of justice. A corps of gendarmes was enrolled, and placed under the command of two natives of known courage, and in a short time

it captured a number of murderers and robbers, who were tried and judged by the Committee, and some of them were condemned and executed.

The security of the district was rapidly improving when, either through the alarm of the Turkish officials or the jealousy or timidity of some of the members of the Committee itself, notice was given to Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha of the powers which it was exercising, and it received peremptory orders to dissolve, and for each member to report himself without delay to the General at Monastir.

The first part of the order was obeyed; but I have not heard that any of the Beys and Aghas left Albassan, the inhabitants of which split up into factions and placed themselves under different Chiefs. The bazaars were closed, and the Nobles and others availed themselves of the existing anarchy to follow up their family rivalries and private quarrels.

The Mufti, who represented the popular element as the friend of the poor and expounder of the religious law, became the principal opponent of the Nobles, and from the authorities here I understand that, during a conflict which arose a few days ago in Elbassan, the Mufti was shot.

Three battalions have consequently been dispatched in all haste from this, under Colonel Osman Bey, with the object of restoring the authority of the Turkish officials, and military Kaïmakams have been appointed to govern over nearly all the districts of this province.

At Jacova and Ipek also the Committees appear to maintain their supreme power, and they have intimated to the authorities of Kossovo that they will not allow any Turkish troops to enter their districts. A battalion which was directed from Pristina to Jacova on the march thither disbanded on the plea that it had not been paid for the last eighteen months, but in reality as it knew it would be opposed by the natives. The battalion was principally composed of Albanians, and the few Anatolians who were in its ranks remained faithful to their colours and returned to head-quarters.

The Jacova and Ipek Committees maintain the strictest order in their districts, and from Christian traders I learn that the high roads are safe, and that the populations do not complain against a severity which facilitates commercial and agricultural pursuits.

It has also been reported to me that the Committees have a secret understanding with the Turkish troops belonging to the Kossovo division that they will not operate in conjunction with the Austrian troops, or in any other manner calculated to injuriously affect Albanian national interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 382.

M. Löwy to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

Secretary's Office, 160, *Portsdown Road, W.,*

London, June 24, 1879.

My Lord,

THE President and Council of this Association have directed me to convey to your Lordship their grateful acknowledgments for the information with which you have favoured them respecting the lamentable condition of the Jewish refugees of Eski-Zaghra and Carlova.

The Council will lose no time in giving their serious attention to the subject which your Lordship has so humanely brought to their notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. LÖWY, *Secretary.*

No. 383.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 94.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 24, 1879.

FOLLOWING sent to Belgrade to-day:—

"I am assured that there is no truth in the reports that have reached the Servian Government, as mentioned in your telegram, of Austrian preparations for an advance

on Novi-Bazar. All knowledge of insecurity caused by bands in Bosnia is also denied here."

No. 384.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 497.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 24, 1879.*

COUNT CORTI has received his instructions on the Greek question. I am told very confidentially that he is instructed to do all in his power to retain Janina and Prevesa for Turkey, compensation being given to Greece on the side of Thessaly.

No. 385.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 24, 1879.*

TWENTY Jewish families reached Carlovo yesterday on official invitation to return to their homes. They were conducted to a house, which was soon surrounded by about 2,000 people, including a large number of women, who broke open the door, pulled down a wall, and lapidated the Jews, wounding five [?] women. One of the leaders of the refugees sought the authorities for more than an hour, and found them all together at dinner, indifferent to proceedings. The Sub-Prefect went after considerable delay to the scene of the riot, but was only able to assist refugees making their escape to Philippopolis, followed for two miles by mob. The other authorities refused assistance. Sub-Prefect stated the nicht [? riot] had been organized by them. Petition will be presented to Governor-General to-morrow. The inhabitants of Carlovo thus show their disregard of advice of General Obroutchelf, who declared that Turkish occupation of Balkans would depend on conduct of population. Destruction of remaining Turkish houses in towns and villages reported to be resumed on a large scale.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 386.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25, 12·15 P.M.)

(No. 499.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 25, 1879, 11·19 A.M.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Hussein Pasha is to be at once recalled. I am pressing the Porte to give instructions at once to their Montenegrin Boundary Commissioners, so that work may be continued.

No. 387.

Colonel Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25, 1·19 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 25, 1879, 12·30 P.M.*

THE new Russian Commissioner called on me to-day, and, to judge from what he stated, Russians have abandoned their pretensions, and accede to intersection of the previous frontier with the parallel of Karaorgan as the point of departure for the work of the new Commission. As he is not yet officially a member of the Commission, and as the previous Commissioner might repudiate his acts, and further as the signed maps held by the Russian and Turk differ, I begged him to commit to writing any proposal he wished to make. To this he demurred, as also to my request that he would show me the map in Russian hands. I can see, however, that with a little more persistence we shall obtain my point, X—— on the crest.

Would your Lordship be pleased to communicate to me state of the negotiations with the Russian Government.

No. 388.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25, 5·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 25, 1879, 12·40 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Commissioner has requested me to convoke meeting for to-morrow evening, as he intends to move a resolution affirmative of the duty of Governor-General to prevent recurrence of incidents similar to that of Carlovo.

Does your Lordship, therefore, sanction my proposing resolutions on Greek petition and Article 370?

No. 389.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, June 26, 1879.

(Confidential.)

IT is our intention, in answering the Russian Circular about the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, to keep the following points in view:—

The Austrian Staff Map to be kept as basis of the proceedings. There may be some faults in it, which may militate sometimes in favour of the one and sometimes in favour of the other party. But the map does not intentionally favour either side. Besides, the line drawn thereon at Berlin indicates the intentions of the Powers and the spirit of the agreement come to. That is what we wish to stick to.

The proposal of Turkey for a fresh survey would conduce rather to the evasion than to the carrying out of the Decrees of Berlin. Besides, a fresh survey would only create new difficulties, and would be a lengthy as well as a costly proceeding. For these reasons we are disinclined to entertain such a proposal.

We would make a declaration to that effect at Constantinople, and try to persuade the Porte to acquiesce in retaining the Staff Map in the way above described. We would further urge it to make allowances for the majority principle which we have upheld on other points in the interest of Turkey. We would press the Porte to instruct its Commissaries not to stop the work of the Commission by refusing to take part in it.

We further wish that the labours of the Commission, which have now been suspended for so long, be resumed immediately. In case of the refusal of the Turkish Delegates, we should have to leave it to the discretion of the Commission whether they feel themselves sufficiently secure to continue their operations in spite of it.

The Italian Cabinet seems to have pronounced in a somewhat similar sense.

In case the British Cabinet agrees to the above views, Count Andrassy will answer the Russian Circular in that sense, and instruct Count Zichy and Consul-General Lippich accordingly. But in that case Count Andrassy expects that the English Agents would receive similar instructions.

No. 390.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June 25, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegram received from Her Majesty's Commissioner at Nicholaieff:—

"Small skirmishes constantly reported on western frontier between Albanians and Servians. The irruptions are mostly known beforehand by Albanians, and apparently undertaken with the object of stealing sheep or cattle; skirmishes taking place on the Goljak[?]jina.

"On the 23rd instant two Albanians reported taken prisoners and one Servian wounded. These troubles have not assumed large proportions, as topographical work of the Commission is still, I believe, progressing. I do not apprehend progress of Commission will be impeded provided that proper precautions are taken by the Ottoman and Servian authorities."

(Above sent to Constantinople.)

No. 391.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1879, 11:30 A.M.*

UNFORTUNATELY your telegram of the 24th instant is unintelligible in its most important part. I can only, therefore, remind you that Austria and England are acting in close conjunction, and that if you are in doubt you should follow M. Kallay.

No. 392.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26, 3 P.M.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 26, 1879, 12:40 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY says that although Russia had hitherto abstained from expressing any opinion about question of Janina since Prince Gortchacow passed through Berlin, the Russian Ambassador there has stated explicitly that his Government consider that it should be within the territory to be ceded to Greece.

Being desirous of acting with Her Majesty's Government, he has still avoided pronouncing himself upon the question, but his previous opinion is strengthened by this declaration on the part of Russia, as he does not wish her to appear to the Greeks more favourable to them than the Western Powers.

No. 393.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26, 3·5 P.M.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June 26, 1879, 12·45 P.M.*

COUNT ZICHY telegraphs that Sultan, being afraid of irritation that might be felt by the Turks who have been expelled from Bulgaria if they saw Prince Alexander treated with distinction, is now anxious that he should not go to Constantinople.

Count Andrassy considers this a deplorable piece of weakness.

No. 394.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1879, 3·10 P.M.*

NUMBER your telegrams.

Make earnest representations to Aleko as to outrages on Jews and Moslems.

No. 395.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 98, a copy of the tracing of the map alluded to was sent to Major Clarke on his first appointment.

No. 396.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. R. Thomson.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1879, 4 P.M.*

OBTAIN consent of Persian Government to transfer of Consulate from Resht to Asterabad.

No. 397.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 26, 1879, 5:35 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday's date, I transmit to you the following telegram which has been received from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh :—

[Repeat Mr. Plunkett's telegram No. 98 of the 23rd June: No. .]

A copy of the original tracing of the map left with me by Count Schouvaloff on the 12th May last year was forwarded for your use through Sir H. Layard, as stated in my despatch No. 1 of the 12th December last, and you are authorized to accept that map as your guide.

No. 398.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

(Private.)
My dear Count Károlyi, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.*

I HAVE not given Count Schouvaloff any formal answer to his Circular beyond telling him that we agreed in condemning the proceedings of Hussein Pasha and had urged his removal. I was informed from Constantinople yesterday that this has been done.

The Turks asked me two or three days ago about a fresh survey. I did not give a final answer; but on examining the Treaty, I confess I find it rather difficult to resist the Turkish contention, that the words of the Treaty and not the words of the Staff Map are the thing to which the Powers have subscribed, and by which they are really bound.

I see that, according to the statement of the Russians, there are several points where the boundary has been carried unnecessarily through the middle of a tribe. If that is so, would it not be better to do the work effectively and completely, and for that purpose, at all events, have a fresh sketch of the country executed by the Commission? I forbear from expressing any definitive opinion on these points, as I do not know the exact importance which Count Andrassy attaches to the question. But, I think, considering the character of the Albanians, it would be dangerous to give them any excuse for saying that the letter of the Treaty had not been carried out.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 399.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 820.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 185, Confidential, of the 12th instant, reporting the steps you have taken to bring before the Turkish Government the urgent necessity of immediate measures of reform in the Eastern Provinces of Asiatic Turkey.

The representations which you have addressed to the Porte on this subject have the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 400.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 833.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 19th instant the Turkish Ambassador called my attention to the existing difficulties attending the delimitation of the frontier of Montenegro, and stated that his Government were anxious that a new survey should be taken of the disputed territory.

They justified this suggestion by the admitted inaccuracy of the Austrian Staff Map, which had guided the negotiations at Berlin, and which was referred to by the Commission engaged on the work of demarcation.

I said that I thought that a new survey of this disputed country was reasonable, but that every facility must, in that case, be given by Turkey for its immediate execution. Such a request was wholly inconsistent with the conduct of the Turkish Government, who, as I understood, had declined, and still continued to decline, to admit the Commission or their deputies to some of the principal strategical points of the country in question. As long as this attitude was maintained by Hussein Pasha the Turkish Government would be evidently in the wrong, and I urged his Excellency to represent the conduct of that officer to the Ottoman Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 401.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 267.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 265 of the 12th instant, in which you express your sense of the services rendered by Mr. Cartwright and Mr. Walpole, attached to your mission in the respective capacities of Secretary and Private Secretary.

I have learned with much satisfaction the favourable opinion which you have been led to form of these gentlemen, and which tends to confirm the impression derived from the manner in which the work of the mission has been performed.

I shall be obliged by your informing them that the industry and intelligence which they have shown has been fully appreciated.

I should be glad that Mr. Simmons should also know that his services as translator to the Mission have my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 402.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 268.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 263 of the 12th instant, reporting the demonstrations of friendship and respect which were made to you on the occasion of your final departure from Philippopolis.

I take this opportunity of offering to you the thanks of the Queen and of Her Majesty's Government for the manner in which you have discharged the delicate and arduous task intrusted to you, and of expressing to you their high approval of the perseverance and ability which you have displayed, and which, in their judgment, have largely contributed to the successful issue of the labours of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 403.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 27.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 28 of the 5th instant, reporting the proceedings of the Commission of which you are a member in settling the frontier of Bulgaria in the neighbourhood of the Trojan and Shipka Passes.

The course which you have taken in the discussion of this part of the frontier is entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 404.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 419.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I GATHER from your Excellency's telegram No. 96 of to-day that Count Andrassy is disposed to accede to the cession of Janina to Greece, as Russia is believed to be in favour of it, and he does not wish that the Greeks should think her to be more inclined to admit their claims than the Western Powers.

In forming the view to which they have inclined, Her Majesty's Government, like that of Austro-Hungary, have not left out of view the effect which their decision was likely to have upon the sympathies of the contending parties; but in this order of ideas it seems unwise to dismiss as unimportant the resentment with which the Turkish Government and people would receive a decision adverse to their long-established rights of possession over a region to which they attach so much importance.

It seems to me, however, that, in order to procure unanimity in the question, it will be necessary to find a compromise, and that it is possibly in cession of territory on the side of Thessaly that the material for such a compromise may be discovered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 405.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 421.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I AGREE with the opinion of Count Andrassy, reported in your Excellency's telegram No. 97 of to-day, that the Sultan has shown great weakness in opposing the visit of Prince Alexander to Constantinople. I have endeavoured to induce His Majesty to change his views on the subject, but my remonstrances have been ineffectual.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 406.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 7. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 24th instant, reporting on the attitude of your French and Austrian colleagues with regard to the two motions you have proposed to bring forward in the Commission.

Your telegram has, unfortunately, become confused in transmission in its most important parts. In answer, therefore, to your request for instructions as to the course which you shall pursue, I can only remind you that Austria and England are acting in close conjunction in regard to the matters of which the Commission has cognizance,

and that, in cases in which you are in doubt, you will do well to act in accordance with M. de Kallay's opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 407.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Michell.

(No. 11.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 24th instant relative to the ill-treatment which has been experienced by twenty Jewish families on their return to Carlovo. You mention further that the destruction of such Turkish houses as still remain in the towns and villages of Eastern Roumelia is recommencing on a large scale.

I have, in reply, instructed you by telegraph to address earnest representations to Aleko Pasha upon the necessity of taking immediate measures for the prevention of these outrages.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 408.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 44.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE this day informed you by telegraph that, according to a report received on the 23rd instant from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, the Russian Commissioner for the settlement of the Asiatic frontier has received instructions to take for his guidance the principles laid down in the 18th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, and the line traced on the map which was communicated to me by Count Schouvaloff in May 1878.

M. de Giers, in making this communication to Mr. Plunkett, expressed a hope that you would also be furnished with a copy of this map, and instructed to follow its indications in your discussions on the subject of the frontier.

A copy of the map in question was forwarded to you for your use through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, as stated in my despatch to you No. 1 of the 12th December last; and I have only to add explicitly, what you have doubtless understood, that you are authorized to accept it as your guide with regard to the line which it was intended that the frontier should take.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 408 A.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879, 11·50 P.M.

WE cannot, I fear, alter our attitude as to Janina, for a reason similar to that of Count Andrassy: that goodwill of Turkey at this moment is of more importance than goodwill of Greece. But I think we shall find some compromise necessary in order to procure unanimity, and the material for it may be found on the side of Thessaly.

No. 408 B.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 26, 1879, 11·55 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 97, I have remonstrated with Sultan on his weakness as to Prince Alexander, but in vain.

No. 409.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 676.)
Paris, June 26, 1879.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that Prince Hohenlohe, the German Ambassador here, had brought to him yesterday a proposal from the German Government (1) that a collective note should be addressed to the Roumanian Government summoning it to execute completely the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin respecting religious toleration; and (2) that, if the note did not produce the desired effect, the Ambassadors at Constantinople, who would be in communication with each other on the Greek question, should consider what measures should be taken to procure the due execution of the Article.

M. Waddington said that the propriety of sending in the collective note would, of course, depend very much on the terms of it. He had himself laid down the minimum which he could accept as satisfactory. He had more than once informed the Roumanians that the formal abrogation of the Article of their Constitution imposing disabilities on non-Christians would not suffice, unless it were followed by legislation giving practical effect to it. He had said to them that the least that could be accepted was that they should pass a law giving to *bonâ fide* Roumanian-born Israelites the right, on coming of age, to make option in favour of Roumanian nationality, and thereby to acquire the privileges and accept the burthens of Roumanian citizenship. For his own part, M. Waddington would, he said, be not unwilling to join in a collective note which was limited to requiring this minimum.

He was less confident about the German proposal with regard to the reference to the Ambassadors. He should, at all events, wish to learn what was the view of the German Government with regard to the nature of the measures for ensuring the execution of the Treaty. He must confess that he himself did not see that any measure could be taken beyond that of continuing to withhold the recognition of Roumanian independence.

I observed to M. Waddington that, personally, I had all along been afraid that the persistence of France and Germany in refusing the recognition might prove, in the end, to be quite as embarrassing to themselves and to Powers who were unwilling to act apart from them as to the Roumanians. Suppose, I said, the Roumanian Government were to choose to remain unrecognized rather than to affront the prejudices of their own countrymen.

M. Waddington admitted that this was an hypothesis by no means improbable; and he added that he was on this account the more unwilling to commit himself, without further information, to the German proposal respecting the measures to be taken in case the collective note should prove ineffectual.

Finally, his Excellency said that he understood the same proposals had been made by Germany in London and at Vienna, and that he much desired to know your Lordship's opinion on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 410.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Consular.)
Philippopolis, June 25, 1879.

A JUNIOR police officer has been sent to make secret inquiry into Carlovo riot, with object of discovering by whom it was organized. Sub-Prefect has received similar instructions. I have urged insufficiency of these measures, and necessity of appointing a Commission of Inquiry and quartering militia.

The Governor-General, who is at his country seat, knew nothing of the incident when I went to him this afternoon. He will return to-morrow for a Council, at which he has promised to appoint a Commission and order dispatch of a company of militia; but under Bulgarian influence he will possibly do neither.

No. 411.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.)
Paris, June 26, 1879.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs, adverting to conversation recorded in my despatch No. 597 of the 3rd instant, desires me to say that he continues to attach great importance to coming to an understanding with your Lordship on the Greek question before it is taken up by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, and that he is anxious to have further information regarding your views as to frontier.

No. 412.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27, 1·5 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, June 26, 1879, 8·30 P.M.

I HAVE telegraphed following to Sir H. Layard:—

"Through my intervention, Montenegrin Government and Kiamil Pasha, at the end of April, came to an arrangement about return of Christian refugees to district of Novi-Bazar.

"One of the conditions was that they should return unarmed, the Turkish authorities promising to watch over their safety.

"I have had communicated to me, by the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, a complaint addressed by these Christians to Prince, stating that the Mahommedans and Turkish authorities are treating them with the greatest cruelty, and that they will again be forced to seek refuge.

"Prince Nicolas urges that the above may be communicated to the Porte through medium of Her Majesty's Government."

No. 413.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27, 9·30 A.M.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, June 26, 1879.

PRINCE BATTENBERG much concerned at Sultan not wishing him to come to Constantinople. His Highness thinks that, after visiting all the other Courts, his not going to receive his Firman of Investiture from his Suzerain would have a very bad effect, and be attributed to a wish on his part, instigated by Russia, to slight the Sultan. He has made an appeal to His Imperial Majesty, through the Turkish Minister, here to receive him, if only for a few minutes *en passant*. He believes danger apprehended from Bulgarian Mussulman emigrants exaggerated, and that at all events none would be incurred by paying flying visit as described. He is anxiously awaiting answer to telegram he sent to the Queen on this subject from Munich. He remains here till Sunday evening.

No. 414.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879, 12·40 P.M.

INFORM Minister for Foreign Affairs that we have considered the alternative Greek frontier suggested by Italian Government, namely, the drainage area of the Peneus and Aspropotamo, and that it seems to us to contain hopeful elements for the settlement of this difficult question. We hope Italian Government will not lose sight of it.

No. 415.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 126.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879, 1·45 P.M.

RUSSIAN Government has expressed to German Government its concurrence in the cession of Janina to Greece, and this announcement has, I fear, decided wavering Austria. As Russians are probably holding different language at Constantinople, the Grand Vizier should know this.

We have seen no reasons to modify our opinions on the point. I think you would do wisely to discuss the matter fully with Corti.

No. 416.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 839. Confidential.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879.

I HAVE informed your Excellency by telegraph that the Russian Government have expressed to that of Germany their concurrence in the view that the contemplated rectification of the Greek frontier should comprise the cession of Janina to Greece.

There is reason to fear that this announcement may have the effect of bringing to the same opinion the Government of Austria, which, upon this point, has been wavering and undecided.

As the Russian Government are probably holding language in a different sense in their communications with the Porte, I think it would be desirable that you should make the Grand Vizier acquainted with the actual state of the case.

Her Majesty's Government have seen no reason to modify the conclusion to which they have come, that, both in the interests of Turkey and of Greece, the cession of Janina to the latter country would be inexpedient. It would, in their opinion, be advantageous that you should discuss the matter with the Italian Representative at Constantinople, whose Government is disposed to take a similar view.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 417.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 815.)
My Lord,
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram stating that M. Waddington is desirous of knowing what suggestion Her Majesty's Government are prepared to make for the purpose of bringing the views of the two Powers into harmony on the subject of the Greek frontier.

In reply, I would point out that the frontier at present contemplated by France has, in our eyes, these two inconveniences:—In the first place Turkey is very unlikely to concede it. In the second place, if that objection could be overcome, the inhabitants are almost certain to resist. By the use of the word "inhabitants," I do not mean only those living in South Albania, but all the Albanians as far as the Montenegrin frontier. All the accounts we receive from that country represent the state of public order as very critical, and that massacres and civil war are to be expected if any probability should appear of Janina being ceded to Greece. The Italian Government has, I believe, been recently considering a proposal for cession which should exclude the coast of Epirus altogether. It would give to Greece a district which may be described as the drainage area of the Peneus and the Aspropotamos. Undoubtedly this arrangement would have the advantage of giving a defensible frontier, and of bringing under the Greek rule a population which in the main is well disposed to it. If Turkey were to resolve to make this cession to Greece, I believe it would be made peaceably; but the difficulty of persuading Turkey will still remain.

Would M. Waddington be disposed to consider any plan for making a cession which, though complete in practice, should not nominally involve any diminution of the Turkish Empire? It might either take the form of a tributary State like Bulgaria

or Egypt, or an authority to occupy and administer, as in the case of Bosnia and Cyprus. It is possible that some arrangement of this kind, joined to some financial consideration of the wants of the Porte, might bring about a peaceable acceptance of changes which otherwise will too probably involve a renewal of war.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 418.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 816.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879.

My Lord,

SOME communication has passed between the German Ambassador and myself with respect to the recognition of Roumania. The German Government appear to hold the opinion, in which Her Majesty's Government entirely concur, that it is desirable to close this question as speedily as possible. For that purpose Her Majesty's Government would suggest that the three Western Powers, with the concurrence of Italy if it can be obtained, should agree upon the minimum which they require of the Roumanian Government in execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and in consideration of which they will be prepared to recognize the independence of Roumania.

After consultation with the German Ambassador and with Mr. White, who is now in England, I am disposed to suggest that the most convenient form in which the Roumanian Legislature can satisfy the Treaty will be by including the language of the XLIVth Article in the 7th Article of their Constitution. I should be glad if your Excellency would ascertain whether M. Waddington is disposed to accept such a provision as a satisfaction of the Treaty, and, if so, whether he would join with the other Powers in recommending it to Roumania.

I further suggested to Count Münster that if the Powers could agree upon such a communication, it might be made in a more acceptable manner by conveying it, not directly, but through the friendly offices of the Minister of some one of the Powers who have already recognized the Principality, so as to avoid the appearance of any menace or any injury of the national feelings of the Roumanians. It is probable that the Austrian Minister might be induced to convey a message of this description.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 419.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 345.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government have considered the alternative Greek frontier suggested by the Italian Government, namely, the drainage area of the Peneus and Aspropotamos, and that it appears to them to contain hopeful elements for the settlement of this difficult question. They therefore entertain the hope that the Italian Government will not lose sight of this idea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 420.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 349.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879.

Sir,

AT an interview which I had with the Italian Ambassador on the 19th instant, his Excellency asked me what course Her Majesty's Government proposed to take in case Turkey and Greece were unable to come to terms by means of the assistance of the mediation that was now being offered to them, and whether, if Greece attacked Turkey, Turkey would be allowed to defend herself.

I replied that the mediation was a friendly one, that Her Majesty's Government did not contemplate the use of force in order to carry into effect any particular views, nor would they admit its application as legitimate by any of the mediating Powers.

General Menabrea then pointed out to me a frontier-line which the Italian Government were disposed to suggest for the purpose of meeting the difficulties which attended the transfer of Epirus to Greece.

The proposal of the Italian Government may be shortly summed up by saying that it contemplated the transfer of the Aspropotamos, so far as it does not now belong to Greece, and also of the whole Valley of the Salambria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 421.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 337.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879.

Sir,

THE German Ambassador came to speak to me yesterday with respect to Roumania. I informed him that, after having consulted with Mr. White, I thought that, on the whole, the best policy to adopt was for the three Western Powers, with Italy, if she would join, to urge upon the Roumanian Government to include the language of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin in Article 7 of their own Constitution. This would be a formal acceptance of the proposals of the Berlin Congress. Some time might still elapse before the detailed execution of them was all that the Powers could desire; but it would be almost impossible to settle these details as a preliminary to recognition, and they must therefore be left to be urged, as opportunity offered, by the Representatives of the Powers at Bucharest. His Excellency said that this view was very much the same that his own Government entertained, and that he thought they would be willing to recognize Roumania on these terms.

I then pointed out to him that a considerable sensitiveness was expressed in the debates in the Roumanian Chamber, of which we had received reports, with respect to the interference of foreign nations in the formation of the national legislation, and that, perhaps, any direct representation from the three Powers recommending this particular mode of giving effect to the Treaty of Berlin might wear the aspect of a menace, and might, consequently, not recommend itself to the acceptance of the Roumanians. I suggested that if the Austrian Representative were requested to bring the views of the Powers to the knowledge of the Prince of Roumania, the suggestion would come before the Roumanian Government in a more acceptable form. His Excellency promised to ask for instructions from the German Government upon this proposal, observing that it seemed to him to contemplate a convenient mode of action.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 422.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 390 A.)
Foreign Office, June 27, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE spoken to Count Schouvaloff with respect to the Article in the Treaty of Berlin, No. XI, which requires, within a year's time after its ratification, the demolition of the fortresses in Bulgaria, and I urged upon his Excellency the importance of measures being speedily taken towards the execution of that stipulation.

He said that he believed a good deal had been done in dismantling the fortifications; that is to say, the arms had been removed, and some portions of the buildings had been taken down, but the destruction of the fortresses, if the word was pressed to its full meaning, was an operation which would involve great cost, and would bring with it no proportionate advantage. Modern fortifications, his Excellency said, were principally of earth, and it was not possible, without undertaking extensive earthworks, to remove all traces of them, but, if left to themselves, their value for military purposes deteriorated rapidly. I informed his Excellency that in an interview which

I had had with Prince Alexander I had pressed this question strongly on His Serene Highness, as it was one to which both the British and Turkish Governments attached great importance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 423.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 17. Political.)

Aleppo, June 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch addressed by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with reference to Zeitoun affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 423.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to Sir A. H. Layard.

Marash, May 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to forward to your Excellency three cypher telegrams of date 8th, 9th, and 10th May. Copies of the first two I have sent to Consul at Aleppo, for transmission by post, and I inclose a copy of the last. The details contained in these telegrams will have brought to your Excellency's notice the very injudicious policy which the Imperial Commissioners are pursuing; but, at the same time, their confidential communications to me leave no doubt in my mind as to such a course having been forced upon them by orders from Constantinople. As it seemed expedient to telegraph at some length, I have little to add on these matters. As regards the telegram of the 9th May, I may mention that, concerning the stationing of troops rather in the environs of Zeitoun and adjacent districts for the protection of the inhabitants, the American missionaries, who have an intimate knowledge of the localities, whose opinion I subsequently asked, tell me that detachments so stationed, that is near the defiles, would be better able to act against any Zeitoun brigands or outlaws than if in the town itself. The number of prisoners, 139, is incorrect; it should be 153. The Mixed Commission appointed to examine the charges against them consists of eight Christian and eight Mussulman local members, and two Mussulmans appointed by the Commissioners, under the presidency of the local "Naib" or Judge. Although appointed subject to the advice of the Catholicos of Sis and an Armenian Notable, the choice of members, especially among the Mussulmans, does not seem to give satisfaction. I am well informed as to the antecedents of most of the Notables of Marash, and regret that I had no voice in the nomination of this important Commission. Although I have been unable to exclude corrupt and objectionable members, I must hope that my representations will have warned the Commissioners. The actual result was that the most upright Moslem by reputation was removed from the Commission, and a Christian and Mussulman clique exists in it, whose interest it is to cover over transactions of the past that are reputed to be very nefarious. The Commissioners tell me they find, as was notorious, that the Tribunals here were most corrupt and worthless. It may not be amiss to mention that the fanaticism of Marash is rather the result of the baneful influence of a few Pashas, Beys, and Notables than inherent in the people, and that the power of gradually dissipating it could easily be found by an energetic Governor. The people, indeed, are not divided, as in most Turkish towns, into quarters, but their houses are mixed; at times families of the different creeds inhabiting the same court. The spirit of intolerance and fanaticism is maintained by the Beys and Pashas spoken of, the descendants of the feudal Chiefs, and when an energetic Governor, as Halil Pasha, at the time of threatened outrages on the Christians during the late war, made them responsible, nothing of any sort took place.

The town has a magnificent supply of water; the plain in front of it is vast, and capable of enormous agricultural improvement. A branch road or tramway to join that from Aleppo to Scanderoon would reach the Antioch plain without encountering any difficulty or crossing any but an extremely low watershed. It is altogether a wonderfully fine site for a city. It is at present administered by the Liva or Brigadier-

General of the troops, a weak, indolent, and incompetent man. The feeling against Weissi Pasha, the suspended Governor, a fanatic, of violent temper, and a man, I believe, very much to blame for all that has taken place in the matter of Zeitoun, is so strong, that I have no hesitation in saying that, whether found to have only been acting under Kiamil Pasha's orders or not, it is most desirable that he should not return here, but be sent elsewhere; and, should you concur in this, I trust I may be informed of it. As I informed your Excellency, he was to have preceded or accompanied the Commissioners here; it appears that the Cazaskier, or chief religious functionary of the vilayet, had been pressing this, I understand for personal reasons, most earnestly on the First Turkish Commissioner. I only heard of it at the moment of their departure, and wrote a protest. The Commissioners declined to enter into correspondence on such a matter, and asked me to come and see them. As I had given my reasons both clearly and deferentially, I declined to accede to this, but was glad to find that they determined to leave Weissi Pasha at Aleppo. I travelled here alone at the request of the Commissioners, to whom I defer in all such matters. It was, perhaps, natural that they should feel my presence might impair their dignity, and seem to be a check upon them. Now, however, that they feel the restriction of action that seems likely to be imposed upon them by their Government, and which they hope your Excellency's representations may succeed in removing, their sentiments appear changed, the more so as they find the good faith of their mission looked upon with doubt by the inhabitants accustomed to chronic evasion of performance of promises, unless endorsed by me. I cannot say, however, if this disposition is likely to continue, as the smallest act is accompanied by a great amount of discussion, changing of opinion, and intriguing.

As regards Zeitoun affairs, all I hear and see only confirms the reports already furnished to you by Consul Henderson as to there being nothing of the nature of a rebellion, nor, if I except the action of Babek's band, of there ever having been, while the state of consternation and terror of the inhabitants at the prospect of the troops going there, unless accompanied by me, is a striking testimony in favour of the allegations as to the violence and lawlessness that took place on their last visit. The most striking evidence of the readiness of the Zeitounli to accept the new Governor, the Commissioners, &c., is furnished by the continuous arrival here of Notables and deputations from Zeitoun, and seems a conclusive proof, were such needed, of perfect submission. Convinced that such is the case, and as their disposition towards their legitimate rulers, &c., is so good, I am holding aloof from receiving any deputations, &c., so that, in case of a change of policy on the part of the Turkish authorities, it would be impossible for them to assert that the Zeitounli were really rebels, whose submission was made in collusion with, and under the protection of, the English.

It is for the same reason that I am anxious not to go to Zeitoun one hour before the Commissioners, that no opportunity may be given to Mussulman intrigue to allege that it was necessary for the rebellious Christians to be reassured and protected by the English before they would accept the Turkish authority. At the same time, such is the fear of the population of the troops, and of some act of Babek's party producing a disorder that might endanger all, that I have strongly advised the Commissioners not to send troops there till they have the power to grant a pardon. I have further pointed out to them that I must hold them responsible for any disturbance, and begged them, if any such does occur, to take every precaution to distinguish from what quarter it comes, and that no act of one of Babek's party, even if it has to be resented, should implicate thousands of innocent people.

It has further been arranged that to keep the troops separate as far as possible from the people, and to remove any likelihood of disturbance, their supplies shall be drawn from here and Albistan, and that the movements of the troops shall be subordinated to the Civil Governor, Husni Effendi, a man who seems to have good sense, intelligence, and excellent intentions. He is rather sacrificing his dignity in accepting such a post, and it is only on my representations of the good reputation success in such a delicate undertaking is likely to establish for him that he is willing to do so, as he was so much disgusted at the action of sending soldiers, when he had been anxious to go alone, that he wished to resign.

It does, indeed, seem a most lamentable course that has been adopted, that after these poor Zeitounli, almost blockaded, have waited patiently for seven months, and without a Government or Administration, and at the same time subject to robberies, murders, and various outrages, have yet remained perfectly quiet; that after these robbers who have so complicated the situation, have so nobly kept, under circumstances of the greatest provocation, the promise they gave, a Commission should arrive without discretionary power to grant a pardon; that before it has released the prisoners, most of

whom it believes almost wholly innocent, or examined or redressed a single complaint, when the population are ready to welcome it and its new Governor with demonstrative loyalty, its action should be the despatch of troops and the commencement of a barrack, acts that, however legitimate, cannot fail to be looked on by the Zeitounlis, already once deceived by specious promises, as the counterpart of those that caused them so much misery and suffering. This action, and the whole treatment of the matter, is so different from what I expected, that until further instructed, I hardly feel justified in accompanying the Commission to Zeitoun, and I could certainly never counsel Babek and others similarly situated to submission and surrender, till I had your instructions to do so, or the assurance of the Commissioners as to their course of action. At the same time, the Zeitounli are in such terror at the prospect of the arrival of troops, that I am inclined to accept, if necessary, the offer of Mr. Montgomery, American missionary, to go unofficially, and with no mission from me, to reassure the people, with whom he has great personal interest, and to prevent a great exodus and flight to the mountains, which will otherwise take place; his presence would also have a moral effect on the Turks; if there seems any chance of a disturbance on the approach of the troops, who will take two days to make the march, intelligence would probably reach me in time for me to be on the spot, but, for reasons given above, except in case of disturbance, I think I had better not go till I receive some instructions from your Excellency. As regards the ulterior settlement of Zeitoun affairs, from all I see of the Notables and hear from them, it would be hard to find any one man, Babek, the brigand Chief, excepted, in whom they have confidence. The question of a Christian Governor had therefore, even if accepted in principle, better remain, I imagine, in abeyance for the present. One of the great wishes of the people is to have the tax readjusted to the old form of a definite tribute. All the Commissioners have power to do is to adjust the taxation under the existing laws in force throughout the Empire. It is, however, as I have pointed out, within its functions to recommend another course, should it appear desirable on investigation of the ancient Firmans and privileges and the actual condition of the place. Recently its very existence seems to have been threatened, and the dress of the Notables, unless purposely squalid and shabby, speaks volumes for the general destitution. I may mention that I am informed that communities exist in the Giaour and Kozan Dagh who pay no taxes. Another point many of the people seem to desire is that Zeitoun should not be included in the Aleppo Vilayet. As regards the Armenian nation, it would undoubtedly, if there be no political objection, seem more natural that it should be included in the same district as Hadjin, and, from the topographical features of the country, I think it should rather belong to Cilicia than Syria. The Commissioners assure me that, in inquiring into the Zeitoun matters, the investigation of the alleged illegal acts shall not be forgotten, and that they will not hesitate, if the evidence seems to warrant it, to bring the accused Government functionaries to trial. I wish to avoid in this report giving your Excellency the impression that I have anything to say against the sentiments by which I believe the Commissioners to be animated; although Mazhar Pasha does not impress me with the idea of being such an intelligent, energetic, or upright man as Ghalib Pasha, I believe him to be free from fanaticism and convinced of the necessity of reform; a profound distrust of his own Government, and a wish for its action to be coerced, seem among his prevailing sentiments. Of the high intelligence of the Christian Commissioner I need not speak to your Excellency, though it is to be regretted that he is not a very practical man, that he is given to visionary ideas, and easily discouraged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 424.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 19. Political.)
Aleppo, June 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of another despatch I have addressed to Sir Henry Layard with reference to the letters stolen by Kiamil Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 424.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, June 9, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 21st ultimo, inclosing a copy of a *note verbale* from the Sublime Porte with reference to the letters belonging to me stolen by Kiamil Pasha, I observe the *note verbale* states:—

"Interpellées à ce sujet les autorités Impériales du Vilayet d'Alep viennent de répondre à la Sublime Porte qu'à leur connaissance aucune correspondance de cette nature n'a été interceptée par l'ex-Gouverneur-Général.

"En réclamant, donc, contre cette prétendue saisie, M. le Consul Britannique semble avoir été induit en erreur."

So far from my being in error in this matter, I am in a position to assert that the Sublime Porte is deceiving your Excellency, or that the Minister of Foreign Affairs is being grossly deceived by another Department of the Porte. It is beyond all question that the letters referred to are in the possession of the Porte, probably in the Ministry of the Interior. Copies of them, or rather what purports to be copies of their translations, were sent to Mazhar Pasha and Nourian Effendi, who themselves informed me of the circumstance, with instructions to inquire into the truth of Kiamil Pasha's allegations that I was intriguing with the Zeitounli for political ends.*

I can further assure your Excellency that instead of the authorities of the Vilayet replying, when questioned on this subject, "qu'à leur connaissance aucune correspondance de cette nature n'a été interceptée par Kiamil Pacha," they, on the contrary, informed the Porte that these stolen letters had been sent by Kiamil Pasha to the Porte; and the Mektoubje (or Secretary of Correspondence) of the Vilayet, when questioned by Ghalib Pasha on this subject in my presence, admitted having seen the letters in Kiamil Pasha's possession, and that they were sent to the Porte.

I have every reason to believe that Kiamil Pasha has either forged these letters or grossly mistranslated them, with the intention of injuring me, and I consider myself entitled to have the opportunity of exposing this vile intrigue and the perpetrator of such unscrupulous and detestable falsehoods.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 425.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 18. Political.)
Aleppo, June 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE received from Lieutenant Chermside, for transmission to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, his Report as to the proceedings of the Imperial Commissioners at Zeitoun and his despatches informing his Excellency of the disgraceful condition of the town and people of Zeitoun at present. As they are important despatches which are unfortunately delayed a fortnight at Aleppo, and as there would be great delay in the information reaching your Lordship through Constantinople, I herewith transmit copies of them to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 425.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Marash, June 2, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to forward by Turkish post on the 31st May a cypher despatch for your Excellency's information. It was to the following effect:—

"I have visited Zeitoun, and spent ten days there and in the neighbourhood. The cringing and terror-stricken attitude of the population is a great contrast to their fine physique. Not the slightest evidence exists of there ever having been anything worthy of the name of rebellion. Although I am convinced that abundant evidence

* See Lieutenant Chermside's No. 9 of 29th May, 1879.

exists of the cruel, arbitrary, and fanatical acts of Weissi Pasha and other functionaries to disgrace them for life, if investigated under the impartial scrutiny of an European Commission, I have little or no hope that, from the way the inquiry was conducted, matters will be impartially represented to the Porte. Vague assurances that the subordinates would be pardoned were given to the brigands, but the Chiefs were not named. None have availed themselves of the opportunity to make their submission. Minute inquiries as to all the asserted acts of rebellion, &c., have been made, and 120 of the Marash prisoners, the remainder of 323 prisoners, 200 of whom have been released as innocent or illegally confined, will remain imprisoned in this hot weather for trial after eight months' confinement.

"The condition of the town and people of Zeitoun is a disgrace to any Government; it is hardly an exaggeration to call it an outrage on humanity. I cannot conceive any more ignoble policy than to try and shield and protect the functionaries and officials who have been the main cause of this state of affairs, and to attempt, by giving undue importance to the errors and imprudences of a population that had good cause to despair of redress, to throw the blame rather upon them, than, by a spirit of conciliation, and by reparation of their grievances, to attach them to the Government at whose hands they have so cruelly suffered."

I am, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 425.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Zeitoun, May 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's telegram of the 18th May cautioning me as to the confidential nature of my mission, and to inform your Excellency that any shortcomings or want of judgment on my part have been in nowise owing to any misconception of the mission, the confidential nature of which I clearly understood from my instructions.

I have essayed to be very careful in my conversations with foreigners, &c., and have distinctly disclaimed any idea of having an executive. I have throughout avoided, as far as possible, any semblance of interference. At Alexandretta I did not attend the receptions or breakfast to which I was invited. I accepted, at the request of the Commissioners, the invitation to journey with them, but left Alexandretta privately some hours after them, and in like manner entered Aleppo privately before them, and I did not attend at the reading of their Proclamation or any public ceremonies.

I journeyed alone and by a different route to Marash, and hearing I was likely to be received there by large deputations of the Christians, I sent on word to the Commissioners in order that they might take any steps they thought proper. My holding aloof from receiving any petitions, &c., and my anxiety in this Zeitoun affair to avoid any semblance of interference, I had already reported to your Excellency before the receipt of your telegram.

The only public occasion on which I appeared with them, as I always visited them at their private houses by appointment, was during a visit to the prison at Aleppo. I went to visit it by appointment at a fixed hour, having declined to join the Commissioners in their visit. On arrival I found they were there, and determined to wait, but on receipt of a message from them I joined them.

The matter on the subject of which representations have been made to your Excellency is, I think, very probably that of Weissi Pasha, the suspended Governor of Marash.

My action in this matter I have already reported, and, as far as I was concerned, it was confined to a private note. I have reason to believe, however, that the Commissioners thought well to throw the onus upon me, and I have little doubt that my action, probably in an exaggerated form, was reported by his agents to Kiamil Pasha and others. Weissi Pasha has been ordered by the Porte to join the Commission, and three more of the most fanatic of the Moslem ecclesiastics (one has hopes of eventually becoming Sheekh-ul-Islam), have been summoned to join those already at Constantinople, who are reported to have great influence over the Sultan.

I have, however, been, and am, in constant intercourse with the Commissioners, and have used all the influence I have to further what I believe to be the objects of

the Commission, and have certainly given my opinion freely when asked or consulted, and have on occasions tendered advice. The latter I have always reported with one exception that I deemed trivial, viz., certain statements as to notorious intriguers who were trying to get the ear of the Commission.

I do not gather from your Excellency's telegrams that it is your wish that I should alter my relations with the Commissioners, but it is, of course, evident to me that as long as I am constantly with them it will be open for gossips to spread exaggerated reports as to my action, and for the Commissioners to use my name in support of measures that arouse local prejudices, or even to represent my confidential conversations, as interference, to their Government.

I feel that it is a very difficult position to fill, and although I was always aware that it must be such, the different course the Commissioners have been obliged to pursue to what they intended, and the ill-advised action they have at times taken, have increased its difficulties.

In conclusion, while regretting that any representations should have been made on the subject, I can assure your Excellency that no act of mine can, in my belief, be construed into one of active interference, and that the Commissioners, not I, are responsible that any conversations of mine or correspondence with them have been known to any but themselves, as in speaking to them confidentially I have always spoken personally, and not through a Dragoman. I have reported my proceedings fully in my despatches, and trust that should my action appear to have been too little that of a spectator I may be informed of it, though, of course, as it has been necessary to caution me on the subject, I shall be more guarded for the future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 425.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Zeitoun, May 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Imperial Commissioners left Marash for Zeitoun on the 19th May, with four companies of soldiers, and reached the latter place on the succeeding day.

Mr. Montgomery, an American missionary, who from his connection with the Zeitounli has much influence with them, had preceded them, at the earnest personal request of the Commissioners, to pacify the population, who were in great terror at the approach of the troops. Owing to his instrumentality everything was perfectly quiet, and deputations of the inhabitants, children, &c., presented themselves at the camp that was established outside the town.

The brigands Babek, Katzoff, Basterma, and other Chiefs, with upwards of 100 followers, took themselves off to the mountains. They seem to have had a pretty definite intention of resisting the troops, not with much hope of success, but in despair of pardon, preferring to be killed rather than hunted down or imprisoned. On the representations of Mr. Montgomery, who pointed out that not only would all hope of amnesty for them be over, but that their acts might compromise their innocent fellow-townsmen, they abandoned this intention.

The Commissioners have selected 8 men—1 Protestant, 1 Catholic, 1 Mussulman, and 5 Armenians—from the inhabitants of Zeitoun as a representative body, through the interrogation of whom they have been conducting the inquiry. They have decided to divide the district into 4 "nahey-yes," or parishes, i.e., Zeitoun, including the Christian district of Ahbashlu and the Christian hamlets of Yezidler, Murthaler, and Teke Mahalesi, and the Mussulman districts of Beshelui and Sari Guzel; Furnus, a mixed parish of Moslems and Christians; and Alisheher and Kara Inl, 2 Mussulman parishes. Zeitoun (about 1,000 houses) is the only town or even village among these, the dwellings of the rest being widely scattered, and groups of over 10 houses rare.

The villages or communities in the district amount to about 30, and the headmen of these have been summoned; these formed a body of 29 electors (14 Moslem, 15 Christian), who elected 8 of their number, 4 of each religion, as members eligible for service on the "Idare Medjliss," or Administrative Council of the Kaïmakamlik. From these 8, 4 will be elected by the Commissioners. Each parish is further to have a Communal Council of 8 members; that for Zeitoun has been elected. A Court of

natives has been instituted to inquire into the circumstances connected with the burning of the mosque. The new Governor is also here, and the Cadi has arrived from Marash. In order to try and obtain equality for the Christians, the latter, assisted by 2 natives—1 Mussulman and 1 Christian—is to be the arbiter in civil affairs alone; for criminal affairs there is another Tribunal, consisting of a Mussulman from Marash, a certain Omer Effendi, likewise assisted by 1 Moslem and 1 Christian.

A "Memur," or official of the Emlak Jahri-rate-Medjliss, or Land Revenue office of the vilayet, professedly an expert in the matter of taxes, accompanied the Commissioners here, and a Committee has been appointed under his presidency to inquire into the grievances of the taxation. This official is a fanatic, and his behaviour not reassuring.

The construction of a large barrack, over 50 yards square, on a commanding site outside the town was forthwith commenced. A certain amount of money was procured for the service of the troops (owing to a lucky windfall of taxes from Albistan), and so far all has been paid for. As, however, officers and men are in the usual state of arrears (over twenty months) of the Turkish army, and the military chest in the ordinarily impoverished state, I have little hope that this state of affairs will continue. There have been hitherto no acts of serious outrage or violence to be charged against the troops, but there is abundant evidence, from various little episodes I have witnessed personally, that, from a certain Bimbashi downwards, the insolent oppressive spirit is only dormant and kept in check by the presence of the Commission. In such matters as the Commission has been called on for action, such has been anything but reassuring. A Mussulman, Mukhtar of Bai Timur, informed them of the circumstances of the burning of the Djehan bridge last winter, wrongly attributed to the Zeitounli, and denounced the assassin of the murdered Christian. This was five days ago. An inquiry is being or to be made, after which zaptiehs may possibly be sent to arrest the man, who, in all probability, will not be found.

A Christian arrived last night in camp, bruised and bleeding from the outrages of some Circassians who are travelling through the district and are encamped about three miles from this. Some zaptiehs were sent to them, I believe on the pretence of summoning their Chiefs to come and see the Pasha, to say where they were going, by what permission, &c. They have brought some of them into camp, who simply deny the outrage, and their swaggering, insolent manner is a strong contrast to the sort of apologetic manner which the Turkish authorities treat them. Weissi Pasha, as I informed your Excellency, was sent by the Porte to join the Commission; the latter, fearing his intrigues in Marash, sent orders for him not to delay a moment there, but to join them at once. These orders he has simply disregarded, and only arrived here yesterday after a very peremptory summons to delay no longer.

Here I do not think there is the slightest chance of his conduct being scrutinized or condemned in the vigorous way that alone could produce a really desirable effect. His misdeeds and the injudicious nature of his action are so evident as not to be denied —merely palliated; but I understand, if possible, he will be sent to Orfa as Governor, and replaced here by the Mutessarif of that place. The people here have numerous complaints against him, many capable of being clearly proved, but are afraid of putting them in writing and presenting them, and without an interference that my position does not warrant I cannot get this done. The inquiry into the acts of the late Kaimakam is going on, and there is the same fear of making statements. The man is here, and, from what I hear of his interrogation yesterday, is not only stating falsehoods, but trying to misrepresent the action of the English Consul in the matters here. What the latter saw (Consul Henderson's No. 1 of the 6th January, 1879)—fourteen uncondemned prisoners chained in the way he describes—is quite sufficient evidence of his illegal acts, and I have heard abundant testimony as to his drunken habits, corruption, &c. A Turkish translation of an Armenian letter, purporting to be a copy of one addressed by the Zeitounli to Mr. Henderson, has, as I informed your Excellency, been forwarded by the Porte, and an inquiry ordered.

Some of the signatures of the letter in question have been summoned, and asked whether they did not write to the Consul, telling him "they were waiting his instructions;" "were ready, and looked only to him;" and "asking for arms and money." Others have been asked if they did not say, "They wished to be English." But even as regards the latter statement, which would have been very mildly treasonable, I shall be incredulous unless the original were produced, as I am assured that it merely contained statements to the effect that "they were most miserable;" "waiting patiently, in accordance with his Councils;" and "in despair of the help so often

solicited from their own Government, in hopes that the protection of the English would procure it for them;" and "begging that some Representative of the British Government might be sent."

I obtained the above information from my Dragoman, to whom they came of their own accord (ten out of fifteen signatees), and have not conversed with any of them on the matter myself. My Dragoman, who was with Mr. Henderson, has been, however, interrogated by the Commissioners.

There is, indeed, no doubt that Weissi Pasha and others are essaying, and have for long been doing so, to try and twist those Zeitounli disturbances into an intrigue of the English Consul's, and to credit him with fomenting them instead of acknowledging his assistance in trying to bring about a satisfactory solution. The letter above referred to is, I believe, the one stolen by Kiamil Pasha.

It is with the same idea that the ex-Kaimakam yesterday stated the Superior of the monastery* . . . . (see Consul Henderson's No. 1 of January 1879), and by the orders of Mr. Henderson, whereas my Dragoman assures me that it was immediately after the Consul's arrival, and before he had visited the town, and probably through fear of consequences. He further stated that the Superior was not chained, whereas the same despatch affirms the reverse. When, however, I am continually hearing of intrigue and rumour concerning myself, and find that there are Turkish functionaries, and those of high rank, so ignorant and fanatic, and with ideas so hopelessly fixed in the groove of the old school as to represent England's interest in this country as a design to intrigue with the Christian population, with the object of seizing this part of the country, I cannot be surprised at the above. All I see and hear leads me to believe that had it not been for the Consul's action in this matter, his judicious councils, and the manner in which, being without a representative here, he availed himself of the assistance of the Armenian missionaries, a most lamentable outbreak would have, in all probability, occurred; and I can only regret that the Turkish authorities have not as yet shown any indication of availing themselves of the opportunity that has been prepared for them of a policy of clemency, reparation, and conciliation.

As regards the zaptiehs the Commissioners have asked for authority to establish a mixed force of rural police under the name of "harifs," and have invited here Rusti Bey, a member of the Gendarmerie Commission, who is in the country on business connected with the establishment of the Circassian emigrants, to assist in the reorganization of the gendarmerie. About 120 to 130 of the Zeitoun prisoners at Marash will, I understand, remain for trial; of these about 50, I believe, are accused of participation in the Kurtul affair, and over 30 in that of Geben, in both of which the brigands now in the mountains were the principal actors.

These village feuds at worst can be looked on as but outcomes of the inefficiency of the Administration, and the statement of the Christians that, surrounded as they are by hostile Mussulman tribes, unless they at times vindicated in mere self-defence their right to existence, they would have been exterminated, seems hardly an exaggeration. While there are abundant instances all over Turkey of graver transactions being condoned, even if noticed at all, it seems singularly inopportune when a population has suffered wrongs at the hands of the Government, as this undoubtedly has, as evidenced by the fact of 200 out of 320 prisoners having already been found innocent, to select these affairs for rigorous examination.

The above is a summary of the acts of the Commissioners here, and as will be seen, few actual practical results have been achieved. The Mussulmans of the neighbourhood, among whom no opportunity of exciting the fanatic spirit against their Christian compatriots seems to have been lost ever since the introduction of the Government sixteen years ago, are much dissatisfied at the protection that has been extended to Zeitoun. The Christians, on the other hand, have received no tangible benefit, and are in great fear of renewed outrages directly the Commission departs. While the establishment of these numerous Commissions is very constitutional and admirable in theory, with a population not only so ignorant and degraded, but so widely scattered, doubts cannot fail to arise as to their satisfactory working.

As regards three of the main points—the prisoner, the brigands, and an efficient zaptieh force—there are unfortunately no actual results. Power has, I understand, been given to the Commission to pardon the subordinates among the brigands, but the Chiefs are not named, and cannot be, I am told, till the inquiries establish who they are. The Commissioners have since, I learn most confidentially, received another

* There are evidently some words omitted here.—P. H.

telegram, sent under the authority of the Sovereign, enjoining great circumspection as to whom they pardon and as to the prisoners they release on the recommendation of the Special Sub-Commission. As regards the brigands the result is that, accustomed to be deceived by false promises, as yet not a man has come in. On the departure of the Commission, for the safety of the troops and to insure public tranquillity, the Commandant will, I understand, commence measures to capture these men. The latter will have difficulties in procuring supplies. It is possible that friends and relations of the prisoners may join them.

I have no hesitation in saying that it would be advantageous for the troops to be withdrawn from Zeitoun itself.

The female population (Armenians) there do not, as in the towns, shut themselves up and cover their faces, but habitually work in the fields, and assist materially by their labour to support their families.

In a few days a large portion of the males go for three months to work in the mountains. When the vintage comes, the women, who are already in great terror owing to two or three attempted outrages, will either have to pass daily by the camp or give up work. Of course, something can be done by placing guards, but it would be better to remove the troops.

As to the advantages of Zeitoun, which has no importance as a site, and is on a thoroughfare, as a garrison, my visit to the district has completely confirmed what I reported before.

I have travelled all over the caza, with a view to making a map of it, and I find that the establishment of three or four small posts would completely blockade and contain the district, if necessary, and would at the same time protect the commerce and give security on the Albistan-Marash road, the Zeitoun-Gyuk-Lim, and Gyuk-Lim-Albistan roads; and if the fourth be made on the Gyuk-Lim-Marash and Zeitoun-Marash roads, small detachments of troops could be stationed at these points under canvas, and construct their own posts. The maintenance of their supplies, which now come from Albistan and Marash, would be made easier. Except as a demonstration of force to a so-called rebel population, and as stimulating the fanatic Moslem sentiment of repression of the Christians, the construction of a barrack at Zeitoun (estimated at 250,000 piastres) is a pure waste of money. On the exposed site selected the soldiers will suffer much in winter. A post to the north of the gorge called the Kussuk, on the way to Albistan, another in the Essen-dere, near Eredjek, another near Gyuk-Lim, the Circassian head-quarters, and if necessary, a fourth to watch the outlet from Zeitoun towards Marash, which should be between the two Pyramus bridges, near the juncture of the Furnus stream with that river, would be all that is required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 425.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Marash, June 3, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I accompanied the Commissioners to Zeitoun. The result of such inquiries as I have been able to make, the information the Commissioners have communicated to me, and the evidence of my eyes confirm in every way the information already forwarded to you by Consul Henderson.

I have taken notes as to such details of past transactions as I deemed advisable, but it will not be necessary in this despatch to give a detailed narative of events with which your Excellency is already acquainted. The site of the town, which is an irregular collection of flat-roofed mud and stone houses, rising one above the other, and built on the slope of very steep hill at the junction of two water-courses that run through rocky gorges, has nothing to recommend it as an eligible one, and has evidently been adopted rather for security than for any other reasons. Destitution, squalor, and abject misery are its principal characteristics; and I do not think I am exagerating in stating my belief that it is the most unsuitable-looking town I have seen in Turkey.

It is almost impossible that it can ever have decent streets or be capable of much

improvement on its present site, but mindful of the repeated outrages that have overtaken their fellow Christians in the outlying and more scattered communities, the population seems utterly terrified at and unwilling to entertain the idea of building dwellings on more eligible sites in the immediate neighbourhood.

Zeitoun, until some sixteen years ago, a semi-independent autonomous community, is indeed a typical monument of what maladministration, religious fanaticism, and misgovernment can produce in the way of desolation and misery. Its recent misfortunes date from the introduction of the Government authority into this and the adjacent districts of the Giaour Dagh and Koyan Dagh about sixteen years ago. Up to that time the community of the mountain district had paid a definite tribute, at first 15,000 piastres annually, but latterly increased by 9,000 piastres to pay for the Mudir and functionaries engaged in collecting the tribute.

I need not in this despatch go further into details of the past, merely referring to such as seem to bear most directly on the present state of affairs. The condition of Zeitoun prior to the epoch above mentioned is described in the 15th February number of the "Revue des Deux Mondes" for 1873, and with the details I have gathered I shall be enabled at any time to furnish your Excellency with a tolerably accurate and detailed historical sketch.

At the time I speak of, the Zeitounli, like the inhabitants of the neighbouring district, were in possession of lands that they held by right of tradition, and had cultivated from father to son for generations. Shut in as they are by high mountains, whose rugged slopes yield but small patches of land suitable for cultivation, they cultivated valleys and districts in the mountains at distances as great as twenty-five miles. These lands, to which they had no written title, were claimed by the Government which, at that time, occupied in the problem of establishing its nomad Turcoman and Greek populations and its Circassian refugees, took them from the Zeitounli and conferred them on Mussulman populations. Some of the tracts as those at Seghleyen, were sold; the Zeitounli, recognizing their importance to their community, had actually bought and were cultivating them, when deprived of them.

In another case (Audjek) an offer of 60,000 piastres from Zeitounli was refused while the lands were sold to Musulmans for half the sum. I take this to be one of the primary causes of the misery of the population. The Government in need of land was doubtless informed by local functionaries that the lands it was leaving to Zeitoun, and for which titles, &c., were conferred, were ample, while there can be little doubt that such was not the case, and a teeming population has been shut into a town far too large for the lands and industries belonging to it. It is true that towards the Djehan or Pyramus River there is a tract of land two or three miles in length by upwards of one mile in breadth; this is mostly covered with oak and syringa scrub, and might become arable land.

Attempts to cultivate it have been made, but the necessary capital to reclaim it, and the labour at first unremunerative, and perhaps I might add the energy, is not to be found in such a poverty-stricken community; they, however, assure me that they pay tax for it. Although I am aware that the restitution of the lands above spoken of is improbable, and that it is hardly likely, unless eligible lands could be found in the immediate neighbourhood for the Mussulmans, that the Government would attempt to remedy one act of injustice by another, I deem it of great importance that this point should be fairly examined, as if, as I believe it to be, what the population aver is substantially correct, it establishes a claim for reparation, some means for making which might be found, such as remitting part of the taxes, or giving the community special privileges for a term of years, until it can recover itself a little and be fit to take its place on equal terms among the communities of the Empire, or such measures as liberally assisting emigration to other parts of the country. Hemmed in by mountains, the Zeitounli have always been surrounded by fanatical Moslem neighbours and by Turkish Beys such as those of Marash, who considered it a prescriptive right to pillage and oppress their Christian neighbours.

The community of interest and privilege as regarded the tax combined, perhaps, with their numerical superiority, maintained a spirit of toleration between them and their Mussulman fellow-occupants of the districts, who combined with them to resist any encroachments of the Government on their traditional privileges (Galendar Pasha's invasion, Kiushid Pasha twenty years ago, Aziz Pasha, sixteen years ago). This feeling of fraternity, likened to that which exists among the Arnaouts, has, in my opinion, and from all I can gather, been exaggerated by people writing and speaking of Zeitoun. With the advent of the Turkish administration came the practical assertion of the Mussulman domination and ascendancy, not only as a Govern-

ment, but as a class, and the people of that faith, finding their outrages on the Christians unredressed, and any complaints of theirs at once attended to, were not slow to avail themselves of the new state of affairs, no opportunity indeed seems to have been lost by the intriguants and fanatics of Marash to rouse and foment this feeling, and to widen the breach between the two sections of the population; and so it has continued as corrupt functionary after functionary administered affairs there till it culminated in the disgraceful conduct of Weissi Pasha last year in firing on the people after making prisoners of their Notables, maintaining the soldiers in free quarters, conniving at gross excesses, violence, and oppression on their part, and treating the population as rebels; a list of misdeeds that I feel thoroughly convinced if impartially examined under the scrutiny of a European Commission, would result in his punishment and disgrace for life.

When the Government was introduced, the estimate of the taxes to be levied amounted, including dîme and sheep, to about 500,000 piastres, an annual sum the Zeitounli contend they are quite unable to pay, and there were doubtless the usual abuses in collecting it. The "Emlak," or land tax was, it is asserted, enormously over-assessed; properties being registered at as much in cases as ten and fifteen times their value. It amounts in all to nearly 100,000 piastres. Mr. Montgomery has seen the register book; he assures me it is quite absurd to see assessed therein the stony fields on the Zeitoun mountain sides at 8,000 and 10,000 piastres, and to turn over and find the fertile lands of Endjek, on the slopes of the plain lying between the Taurus, inscribed field after field at 125 piastres. Besides this, the Multezim, or Government official, who collected the grape tax, grapes being one of the principal products of the locality, owing to the unsuitability of the land for cereals, so excessively over-estimated the value of the crops, that many of the vineyards have been abandoned and remain so, as I have satisfied myself by personal inspection.

The next most grievous tax is the "bedelieh" or tax for exemption from military service, 28$\frac{3}{4}$ piastres per head on all the male population, including infants, but often amounting, it is said, owing to the Turkish authorities declining to erase the dead from the lists, to as much as 32. This tax to these poor mountaineers is a most oppressive burden; the increased means of development and prosperity that the retention of their young men brings to many Christian communities is here no benefit; there is already a dearth of land. Of fine physique, and with many of the usual qualities of mountaineers, accustomed for generations to carry arms, and capable of using them, as their history shows, it seems a just and reasonable request for such a population to demand rather to pay the tax with their blood; and their admission to military service, and to service in the Imperial Gendarmerie might be a small beginning of one of those steps that can alone, in my humble opinion, ever establish a real equality throughout the country, and raise the oppressed Christian races from a state little better than slavery.

The "tidjaret" tax, or that on a man's earnings, seems again to have been very harshly applied to these poor mountaineers; a certain number are mule-drivers and others work in the mines, six hours distant, for three months in the year, when work is possible, at a rate of 60 paras (3*d.*) a day. Even the priests pay the tidjaret. The Zeitounli assert that a sum far beyond the legal percentage on a man's earnings is exacted.

As regards these taxes I am in hopes that the course will be followed, first, of establishing what tax the Government can in fairness claim; when this is arrived at as a standard, if the total amount actually paid in past years amounts to this sum or nearly to it, it would be then for consideration whether the "baki" or arrears could not be simply remitted, though, of coure, this would be a rough and ready method of justice. When the amount of the tax legally recoverable is established, if it is still evident that it is beyond the means of the community it might then be a question whether the peculiar conditions of the district and past abuses warrant its reduction for a term of years or what steps the Government should take. As regards the "bedelieh" as a general question it is a large one on military as well as financial considerations. Its manner of distribution and assessment in the communities is only a mitigation of the inherent characteristics of a poll-tax and the abuses perpetrated by the "Tchorbajis" or Christian Notables do much to nullify this. It is, of course, also a great source of revenue to the Empire. In a military point of view, considering that disorganized, unpaid, corrupt, and faulty as it is, the Turkish military system and the existing enrolled forces, form the only weapon of defence, or element of internal strength that remains to Turkey in her troubles, and that the band and brotherhood of Islam, I do only substitute for the factors of patriotism and "esprit de corps" on which we count so much, is what alone maintains its power and cohesion, it must be

a great question whether, before the introduction of reforms and changes which it is hoped will regenerate and consolidate the Ottoman power, it would be politic at the present moment, however wise and just the admission of the principle might be to throw the ranks of the army open to Christians. At the same time a beginning such as the establishment of one or more Christian battalions in each vilayet, and a free admission to the gendarmerie, are points that are, in my humble opinion, well worthy of consideration. The above, then, I believe to be two of the principal causes in bringing about the present state of affairs, loss of lands and gross over assessment of taxes (the Commissioners tell me there is abundant evidence of this) as rigorously exacted as possible, so that little by little almost all their property has been taken from the inhabitants, until I have heard them assure the Commissioners if the whole property of the town were collected it would not now amount in value to the actual tax. Beyond this there has been for years a series of functionaries, the corruption and extortion of whom have been notorious, and as to which Notables at Marash, both Moslem and Christian, have given me many details. The misery of the population culminated under the Administration of Daod Effendi, the Governor, who decapitated his servant (see Consul Henderson's No. 1 of 1879), and under the exactions of the war time in money and corvées. To see the condition of the people now, when really the majority are clothed in repulsive rags, to examine the flat cakes of black flour, almost all they have to eat, which are as bad as any I have ever seen, if not the worst, to gather such evidence as I have been able to as to the difference of diet, clothing, and well-being of the population now and twenty years ago, to see the large groups of idle, hopeless, apathetic loungers with no work and barely able to support existence, and to learn what a God-send the captures of the brigands in the way of provisions were to many of the destitute population, and even to others who bought cheaply, is to become convinced that not only the sole wise and expedient but the sole just cause of the Government that has, through its negligence and the culpability of its agents, allowed things to come to such a pitch, is to overlook the undoubted imprudences, errors, and misdeeds of some of the inhabitants, and by making reparation secure the loyalty of what undoubtedly, race, tradition, and physique, are a fine section of the population.

In speaking of the grievances of the population it must not be supposed that the Mussulmans have none; many there are as to the non-return of those who went as soldiers, especially the redifs and "reservists;" there are many others as to taxation, and undoubtedly their condition is miserable enough. Still, with a population nearly equal to the Christian, their taxes and dîmes are considerably lower,* even if the "bedelieh," or military service tax, is deducted, while their possessions in land are much larger. Their lands, too (I have journeyed all over the district), are undoubtedly much finer.

In examining the district I passed several days in their tents and "yailas," and as I was quite alone, our conversation was as free as my knowledge of the language permits.

It was with great regret that I found among such simple, kindly, hospitable people, a very vindictive, fanatic, and malevolent spirit towards the Zeitounli. They were much pleased to hear of the presence of the soldiery, and in hopes that they would sack and destroy the town; and when I found that the religious zeal against the "Giaour," and absurd stories of Russian intrigue—that the clothes, money, &c., of the Zeitounli were furnished by Russian agency—were the most damning charges they could bring against them, I could only conclude that this lamentable state of affairs is principally due to the authorities.

I forward herewith to your Excellency a copy of the petition presented by the Zeitounli to the Commissioners, and also a French translation of the same. The Report of the Commissioners themselves will not be forwarded by them for a fortnight, and they are most anxious for a map from me to accompany it. Personally they admit the justice of almost all the complaints, and further desire a conciliatory course to be followed; but I can have little doubt, from their confidential conversations, that in their Report, although they will not vindicate the action of the functionaries, much will be suppressed, and that action neither impugned or condemned as it might be, and that in like manner, while acknowledging and confirming the errors and imprudences of the population, much of the strongest exculpatory evidence will not appear; and I gather that they rely more on such action as your Excellency and the

* The figures furnished to me I have found to be erroneous, the taxes of the two populations being mixed. I must therefore defer actual comparison of figures.

Representatives of any other Powers to whom the matter may be submitted or reported by their Agents, may take for the amelioration of the conditon of the Zeitounli than on the effect of the Report they will present to their own Government, your Excellency will be doubtless able, from the inclosed documents and former correspondence, to form all necessary conclusions, but will very possibly expect from me, after a personal investigation, some comments on the petition.

As regards points 1, 2, 3, I have already spoken of them.

Point 4 concerns the arrears of taxes; these amount to 2,300,000 piastres, and are the arrears of the annual tax. Until the amount that might have been justly claimed is arrived at statements on this subject are mere unsupported assertions.

Point 5. I need add nothing as to this.

Point 6. The state of ignorance and want of education throughout the country generally is most lamentable.

I cannot help thinking that the wealthier Armenians, representatives of a race whose spirit of nationality has undoubtedly a very strong vitality, have been most remiss in doing nothing for their poorer countrymen, and the Armenian Church more so. Its functionaries in the country here are most illiterate and ignorant, and of very doubtful integrity and morality. The authority of the spiritual Chiefs is little more than an empty name, and religious education at as low an ebb as secular. Of course, the insecurity of life and property and want of justice are obstacles to the introduction of educated teachers into the monasteries, &c.; but it is with great regret that I find that these monasteries, which are dotted all over the country, the inheritance of the people, foundations which might, of course, form a basis for the establishment of schools and the dissemination of religious and secular education, merely serve for the support of Bishops and "vartabets," ignorant, sensual ecclesiastics, who occupy good rich lands and do absolutely nothing for the people. The efforts of the American missionaries and their community, the truth and uprightness they inculcate into a nation seemingly almost hopelessly mean, selfish, and cringing, and jealous of individual success, whose religious sects, at variance one with another, forget, in their petty disputes, their nationality, and the hand of every man of which is against his successful neighbour, form a striking contrast to the proceedings of the other communities of the nation. Already the Protestants are noted for truth and integrity, as well as for knowledge and education. There seems nothing in its doctrine, its past or its present condition, to prevent a revival of the Armenian Church, but at present its state is pitiable, especially as being that of a pure and ancient faith. I presume that, at best, in considering public instruction as a general question of reforms, Government aid would merely take the form of a subvention.

Point 7. The abuses as regards the grape tax I have already spoken of.

Point 8. As regards this, the rearrangement of the administrative district is an important question for the consideration of the Government.

As Zeitoun draws its supplies of grain from Gyuk-Lim and Albistan, its inhabitants are continually in relation with those places. If a man is robbed on the road his own Kaïmakam has no jurisdiction in the district where the thieves are.

Point 9. Would be best arrived at by the establishment of police or military posts, somewhat as I have already indicated.

Point 10. I would respectfully submit to your Excellency that this is a very important point, almost a test point as to whether, as hereto, equality of Christian and Moslem is to exist only in name. Believing as I do that the establishment of a good gendarmerie and the disarmament of the population would have an enormous effect on the amelioration of the country, still I cannot but think that the time has not yet arrived when the measure would be advisable, or even feasible, and its partial execution would only make matters worse.

Point 11. As regards this, I can inform your Excellency that I saw last week a community of Tejerli, with herds, flocks, tents, &c., living on the lands of Christians ("Furnusli") in the Zeitoun district, and eating up their crops. I saw another similar instance, and heard of a third. I believe this claim to be well founded. It was owing to the incursions and behaviour of similar vagrants ("Boghidoughan") that the affair of Gehen took place. I regret to state that the action of the Commission at Zeitoun has been unfortunately most limited, and the results almost nil; the only actual tangible thing is the barrack in course of construction, and the fact of the military occupation. The expectation of the inhabitants that their petitions (over 500) could be examined on the spot was absurd, and would have impeded and delayed the consideration of graver general questions. Nothing, however, has been done as to the brigands in the mountains; a sort of vague assurance that pardon would be

extended to the subordinates (the Chiefs were not named, and intriguers would almost certainly attempt, for personal reasons, to make men out Chiefs, even if they were not) has failed as yet to bring in a single man. They were perfectly ready, any and all of them, to come in on my assurances, but these I would not give. When I see the zaptiehs invariably release their prisoners or fail to make captures (three instances in last few days), when I saw the outrages they are powerless to prevent going on under the very eyes of the Commissioners, I could not feel that they would be securely escorted, or free from danger at the hands of Moslem fanatics, if not at those of their guards. Personal assurances I could not, therefore, honestly give, and declined the request of the Commissioners to give advice in this sense; for while I cannot fail to see what a triumph the submission of these men would be for them, and how it would simplify matters, the assurances they can give are most restricted and vague, and would be unhesitatingly recalled, if necessary, in compliance with orders from Constantinople, just as the promises concerning the military occupation were. Official assurance I could not, of course, give, without instructions. I was, therefore, reluctantly obliged to leave a matter alone in which my influence was wanted by both parties, and when it might have been of much use.

The inquiries of the minor Commissioners are going on. Hakki Effendi, the Public Interrogator, does not conduct the interrogations in an impartial way, I am told; and on the tax Commission efforts have been, and are being made, by the President, a "memur" or official of the "Jabriliti Medjlis," or Land Revenue Office, to coerce, cajole, and even menace the members (four Christian, four Moslem). This is, indeed, to be regretted; and it is hard to see how people, who cannot resist being influenced in such a way, are to be helped. Even if such were not the case, grave doubts cannot fail to arise as to the probability of such ignorant, degraded people carrying on inquiries that will result in no good. The soldiers (four companies) have been left as a garrison.

At Marash only twenty-eight or thirty prisoners have been released since the arrival of the Commissioners as innocent, making in all, not including the women, about 200 who have been discharged at various times during the past eight months as being illegally detained. This number includes the dead (sixteen), the majority of whom were probably innocent. How the prisoners were taken—many being simply arrested in the fields, on the roads wherever they could be picked up, and the brutality with which they were treated in camp, &c., I need not enter into here. Such a confession, as the release of so many amounts to, of the illegality and injustice of their capture, may seem to put in a very strong claim for amnesty for the rest (120 or 130) of these. From what the Zeitounli tell me, and also from what I hear from the Commissioners, six or seven, or, perhaps, ten, are guilty as principal actors; the others, charged with attacks on Mussulman communities at Gehen and Kurtul, were the mere subordinates of these and of leaders among the brigands in the mountains, and the charge against them amounts to having appropriated booty, such as a goat, an ox, &c. These forays all, moreover, occurred during the period when, after the desertion of his post by the Kaïmakam, Zeitoun was left without government, and hemmed in on all sides by hostile Moslems, who assassinated and robbed such of the inhabitants as travelled on the thoroughfares of the country. In order to somewhat curtail this despatch, I have attached some account of these in the form of an appendix. I may state that I have visited Zeitoun, Makkal, and Furnus, and made inquiries, and that I have noted the statements the Commissioners chose to make to me on the subject. I have interrogated Kikor Vartahit, the bearer of the message to Makkal, and to the Rev. Mr. Montgomery, who was present at Zeitoun at the time, I am indebted for some of the information. Seeing, as I have exceptional opportunities of doing, the hopelessly defective administration of justice, the robbery, corruption, and wrong rife throughout the country, and the terrible grievances and distressed condition of all classes of the population alike, I do earnestly wish that the Government could adopt what I believe to be the only humane and politic course, and finish off this miserable affair, by a pardon of the prisoners and brigands. As yet, whatever may be the ulterior intentions of the Government, the futility of the labours of the Commission to bring about a definite result, and the only actual ones arrived at, have only served to aggravate the situation, and to reassure and revive the fanatic spirit of the Moslems and the policy that seems indicated of trying to shield or excuse the functionaries, and to make the most of such illegal acts as can be laid to the charge of the Zeitounli, seems a most mistaken and ignoble one. It is long, I believe, since European influence has been brought to bear much on this part of the country, and I believe that a

journey northwards towards Angora would show the same state of things to exist throughout.

I have not been able personally to go beyond Albistan and Gyuk-Lim, but in the neighbourhood of those two places it would be difficult for matters to be in a worse state. The Government is robbed by its officials, justice is a dead letter, and the state of the Christians most degraded. At Zeitoun the people told me that, bad as their condition was, that on the whole Avutab, Marash, and Zeitoun were three of the places where the Christians had most liberty. I think much of this is due to the influence of the American missionaries. I have in this despatch almost exclusively confined myself to the wrongs of the Christians, and have written but little as to the general state of the country, though I regret to say that all I can learn induces the belief that at no time within the past twenty-five years, if ever, have the reins of Government been so loose, anarchy, disorder, corruption, and evil practices of all sorts so universal, the police so inefficient, and the general state of affairs so deplorable.

For example, in the Bazardjik Plain, a few miles from here, the same grinding, oppressive system of over taxation, to crush the community of Kizil Bash Kurds (Persian Muhommedan faith) as with the Zeitounli. As, however, it was the knowledge of such things that led to the dispatch of this Commission, until some effort has been made to establish order and security it is needless to dwell on these points; but the above Zeitoun affairs are matters on which action might easily be taken, independently of general questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 425.

Petition.

A la Commission Impériale d'Alep.

MM. les Commissaires,

SA Majesté le Sultan, notre Empereur, vous a confié la réforme de tout le Vilayet d'Alep, et particulièrement celle de Zeitoun. En vérité, notre arrivée ici est un grand bonheur pour vous, et, sur cette occasion, nous, les très-humbles sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale, prenons la liberté de présenter ci-dessus, à vos Excellences, les points les plus importants, et incontestablement indispensables pour la réforme du district de Zeitoun, et nous vous prions humblement de vouloir bien prendre en considération ces points :—

1er Article. Le district de Zeitoun, depuis 1266 jusqu'au 1274 (en Turc), payait au Gouvernement un tribut fixe de P. T. 15,000, à quel époque on a ajouté encore P. T. 9,000 comme appointement du Mudir, ce qui donnait comme total une somme de P. T. 24,000.

Mais comme le Gouvernement de Marash en exigeait plus, nous avons porté une plainte à la Sublime Porte, à la suite de laquelle un ordre spécial, envoyé du Grand Vizir Aali Pacha au Gouverneur de Marash, défendait catégoriquement d'exiger; de plus, le privilége nous était accordé seulement par raison que notre district est couvert de rochers et de broussailles, et par raison de l'extrême pauvreté dans laquelle nous vivons.

Quelque temps après à l'époque de l'organisation de l'autorité locale, et puis en temps d'inscription de terres et de propriété, quelques injustes fonctionnaires du Gouvernement, n'ayant aucune considération à ce privilége accordé, et même méconnaissant la clémence du Sultan, se sont permis à tyranniser et à opprimer les pauvres Zeitouniens en évaluant les prix de propriétés beaucoup au-dessus de leurs valeurs réelles, évidemment par l'espoir de recevoir quelques belles récompenses pour leur service si bien rendus au Gouvernement.

Enfin depuis huit ou dix années, étant écrasés sous le poids d'une si lourde charge, et abîmés tout-à-fait intérieurement et extérieurement par les nombreux ennemis, surtout étant depuis deux ans dans un état de siége, et ne pouvant pas sortir et ne trouvant aucun travail ailleurs, nous nous sommes réduits à une misère indescriptible; et dans cet état de malheur nous espérons aujourd'hui la bienveillance de vos Excellences sera portée même à la réduction de ces impôts excessifs, en comparaison de ceux des autres districts, car nous sommes dans l'impossibilité absolue de les payer. Ainsi, nous vous prions très-humblement de nous accorder un tribut fixé selon notre situation, comme il était auparavant. Si cette faveur n'est plus possible, comme vous avez déclaré à la députation chargée de vous la proposer, au moins ayez la bonté et la

pitié de nous favoriser par une cession de taxes de cinq ou six années, après quoi nous suivrerons la règle générale des impôts.

Nous vous prions donc, sans admettre l'évaluation déjà enregistrée des propriétés, de constituer une Commission Mixte des Chrétiens et Musulmans, et d'avoir l'extrême obligeance de leur faire réinscrire loyalement et consciencement leur valeur actuelle.

2e Article. En vérité le district de Zeitoun, à cause de la difficulté pénible d'y supporter l'existence, n'est nullement comparable à tout autre district, car sa population toute entière, étant privée de l'agriculture et de toutes sortes d'arts et de métiers, consiste pour la plus grande partie en ouvriers qui, ne trouvant aucun travail, sont obligés pour quelques mois par année d'aller travailler péniblement dans les mines à 60 paras par jour, tandis qu'une partie de la population, ne possédant pour toute richesse qu'un sent mulet dans chaque maison, les font travailler incessamment, et avec les revenus ainsi gagnés nourissent toute leur famille. Ainsi, le revenu annuel d'une famille ne monte pas même à P. T. 500 à P. T. 1,000, et les susdits fonctionnaires, l'ayant calculé comme propriétés, le Gouvernement prend pour la taxe ("tidjaret") plus qu'elle ne gagne. Enfin, nous présentons cette considération très-humblement à la clémence de vos Excellences.

3e Article. Par la cause de notre extrême pauvreté nous ne pourrons jamais payer la taxe ("bédélié"), et nous désirons bien ardemment servir notre Sultan en corps et en force, ou en argent, que nous ne possédons pas. Nous sommes de très-fidèles sujets de Sa Majesté, et nous voulons rendre absolument notre service militaire. Si, malheureusement, notre application n'est pas admise, et le Gouvernement nous force encore à payer en argent, ça n'aura pour résultat que de nous anéantir en nous amenant dans les cachots des prisons. Nous vous prions très-humblement d'avoir la bonté de déposer notre humble demande aux pieds de Sa Majesté Impériale, dont la clémence est incontestable.

4e Article. Depuis des années, en démontrant notre extrême pauvreté quoique nous ayons tant prié, tant crié, et tant sollicité la clémence du Gouvernement contre l'injustice des taxes, personne ne nous a voulu entendre, et aujourd'hui ce que nous devons au Gouvernement, comme restant des taxes des années antécédantes, n'évaluerait que justement la somme au delà des taxes légales que les fonctionnaires du Gouvernement ont injustement imposé sur nous. Quand vos Excellences voudront bien les examiner, elles seront très-bien convaincus de l'exactitude de notre affirmation. Ainsi, si le Gouvernement ne nous en fera pas grâce, tous nos biens et nos propriétés ne suffiront même au tiers ou au cinquième de ces dettes. Nous vous prions humblement de nous en faire gratifier.

5e Article. A cause des inconvénients qui ont eu lieu ces deux dernières années dans notre district de la part de quelques ignorants, quelques centaines d'hommes, pour la plupart innocents et peu coupables, ont été attrapés et mis en prison à Marash et à Alep, et un nombre aussi s'est enfuit sur les montagnes. Tant que ces prisonniers seront gardé en prison, et tant que ces fugitifs resteront sur les montagnes, la tranquillité publique ne sera jamais rétablie, et de temps en temps des inconvénients ne manqueront pas d'arriver, et avec tout ça notre district restera dans très-peu de sécurité. Aussi s'est d'une vérité incontestable, que jusqu'à un certain point la mauvaise administration de l'autorité locale est la cause de tous ces désordres. Ainsi, si cela peut plaire à vos Excellences, nous vous prions très-humblement de bien vouloir proclamer une amnistie au nom de la sécurité du district.

6e Article. Il n'est pas nécessaire de dire que notre district de Zeitoun en total se compose de 3,000 maisons, desquelles plus de la moitié étant Chrétienne, à cause de de l'extrême pauvreté et impuissance nous n'avons aucune école pour nous instruire, et comme nous restons toujours dans cette ignorance complète, il est bien évident que nous aurons aucune part dans la civilisation du monde. Ainsi, nous vous prions très-humblement de constituer une école pour nos enfants dans Zeitoun, au nom de Sa Majesté le Sultan, dont la dépense nécessaire, selon la loi de l'Instruction Publique, serait payée de la Caisse du Gouvernement.

7e Article. Une assez grande partie de la population de Zeitoun se compose de vignerons qui, avec beaucoup de difficultés et de travaux pénibles, ont réussi à planter des vignes parmi les rochers et les pierres. Ainsi, pendant la vendange l'acheteur des dîmes ("multezim") vient avec quelques Moukhouls choisis par lui, et pour une vigne de P. T. 500, au lieu de prendre P. T. 5, comme la loi ordonne, il prend par force le triple et le quadruple, et pour cette injustice beaucoup de vignerons sont obligés de laisser leurs vignes sans culture. Ainsi donc, nous vous prions de prendre le mesures nécessaires contre ces inconvénients qui ruinent nos vignes.

8e Article. Dans tout le district, comme nous possédons que très-peu de terres, et

aussi comme nous n'avons pas de bons cultivateurs, toute la production de nos champs ne suffit pas même pour un mois d'existence; ainsi nous sommes obligés toujours d'apporter les céréales des autres districts, et avec cela nous rencontrons souvent beaucoup de dangers et de difficultés. Mais puisque le Gouvernement veut garder des soldats dans Zeitoun, et puisque dans le voisinage nous avons de grandes inimitiés avec les habitants Circassiens de Kanvouelidjouk, de Tchardak, et de Korkmaz, qui sont sous la juridiction d'Albistan, il est indispensable, pour notre sécurité et pour notre existence, que ces villages Circassiens, et encore quelques autres villages Musulmans tout près de notre frontière, soient ajoutés à la juridiction de notre district. En tout cas, nous vous prions bien d'exécuter cette mesure, par laquelle nous espérons d'être en bon accord et en bonne relation avec tous nos voisins.

9e Article. Depuis quelque temps nos muletiers ne peuvent plus sortir et aller en aucune direction, de crainte d'être volés et tués. Ainsi nous vous prions très-humblement d'avoir la bonté d'assurer leur sécurité.

10e Article. Quelques mois avant l'arrivée de l'armée à Zeitoun le Vali d'Alep, Kiamil Pacha, étant survenu, nous avait pris plus de 1,200 fusils et pistolets, et dans ces derniers mois, n'ayant aucune arme pour nous défendre, beaucoup de Zeitouniens ont été tués et volés dans les environs par les Circassiens et Musulmans bien armés. Ainsi donc, au nom de l'égalité, nous vous prions très-humblement de nous rendre nos armes, ou bien si cela ne vous plaît pas, veuillez prendre aussi les armes des Circassiens et des Musulmans. Ainsi donc, sans l'exécution de l'une ou de l'autre mesure, la justice ne sera pas rendue, et la sécurité du district ne sera pas rétablie.

11e Article. Depuis longtemps le Gouvernement avait absolument défendu aux tribus Musulmans qui avaient l'habitude d'aller année par année à séjourner trois ou quatre mois pendant l'été sur les montagnes de tous les districts, de s'y rendre. Mais voilà encore depuis trois années les tribus de Zijirli, Bozdoughan, et Djevâl, dans la juridiction du Vilayet d'Adana, viennent en nombre considérable, et méconnaissant tout-à-fait l'autorité du Gouvernement, restent quelque mois dans nos montagnes. Les dégâts de toutes sortes de détriments que nous causent ces tribus sont indescriptibles. Ainsi donc, nous vous supplions de bien vouloir prendre les mesures nécessaires contre ces désordres, qui sont de plus indispensables pour notre sécurité.

Le Résumé.

Voilà nous avons déposé, en 11 Articles, les points les plus importants sous les pieds de vos Excellences, puisque vous avez pris tant de peine pour venir jusqu'ici. Ayez l'extrême bonté d'examiner avec beaucoup d'attention et de compassion notre cause. En vérité nous sommes plus malheureux et plus à plaindre que vous ne pensez. Enfin, votre bonté et votre bienveillance sont très-connues. Ainsi donc, nous avons beaucoup de confiance et d'espoir pour l'avenir.

A Zeitoun, le 14 Mai, 1295 (à la Turque.)

Inclosure 6 in No. 425.

Appendix to Lieutenant Chermside's Despatch of June 3, 1879 (Inclosure 4 in No. 1.)

AT Gehen, beyond the Zeitoun Caza, during the late war, at the period when some of the Turkish successes, grossly exaggerated reports of which, doubtless, reached the population, a tribe of Yuruks established themselves near the lands of the Christian community, and besides trespass, threatened the population with outrage and massacre; the latter wrote to Bibek, the brigand Chief, imploring assistance, and he with some 200 Zeitounli marched to their relief and summoned the Mussulmans to retire under penalty of being attacked. The Yuruks abstained from trespass and refused to retire, and the two parties remained watching each other: a quarrel between individuals brought on a fight in which six men were killed. The Zeitounli were victorious and had, I understand, only wounded on their side: they captured some loot; on returning from this foray they passed by a Moslem village named Lisne, where they had left a small observing force to secure their rear. This village was apparently looted without provocation; there was no bloodshed, and reparation and peace were subsequently made. Mr. Montgomery, who had an account of the matter from the Chief, says mine is substantially correct. At Iverkal it appears that some Circassians were encamped *en route* to Albistan, reputed to be in possession of a large amount of loot plundered from Christian churches in Roumelia; the Zeitounli,

of opinion that it was useless to represent the matter to a Government which allowed such misdeeds to go unpunished and the culprits to quietly retain their plunder, prepared to redress the matter themselves. On arrival near Kenbul they found the Circassians had left. The Keuhuli, frightened at their appearance, fled from their village, and fired on the Zeitounli; it is said a fray ensued in which the latter were victorious and carried off some booty which, however, I am assured was afterwards returned; no one was killed. There are one or two minor affairs besides. The Furnus affair is not very clear to me: the people are so ignorant, so accustomed, I may almost say so obliged to lie, that they will deny to-day what they asserted yesterday. It appears, however, to me, beyond a doubt: (1) that the importance of the affair has been enormously exaggerated by the Turks: (2) that the firing of the troops on the people, whether harmless and unarmed, or as such mischievously disposed, was unnecessary and uncalled for, and an outrage for which those in command were responsible and deserve severe punishment. The Bishop of Furnus is an ignorant, illiterate man, of some force of character and bravery, but wanting in temper and judgment: he is called the "deli papaz," or mad priest.

On his return from Constantinople he found the troops in occupation of Zeitoun where gross excesses and outrages on the population were being perpetrated under the eyes, if not by the orders, of the authorities. Urged on by the young uneducated Vartabet Chelak Artin Oglu, in whose hand he was a tool, there seems good reason to believe that he issued the Proclamation (Inclosure No. 4 of Consul Henderson's No. 1 of the 6th January, 1879), and set out for Furnus, attended by a mob of poor ignorant peasants. The latter were, I believe, called on by the young Vartabet mentioned above, and told that he had conferred with the English, French, and Russian Embassies, and other absurd statements; that they had only to show a little spirit and they would be supported &c.; that matters were in this state I have little doubt, but the Furnus people came forward more with an idea of demanding their rights, than anything else, though doubtless had the Zeitounli shown a less quiet disposition, they would have joined them in any outbreak. Arrived at Makkal, 8 miles from Zeitoun, the Bishop received a message from the Pasha enumerating, asking his intentions; he asserted that they were to present a petition of intercession for the Christians, and to beg for the cessation of outrages; he was advised to come alone, but answered that he would then be supposed to be the only protestant, and asked for permission to come accompanied by his fellow supplicants, who would present their grievances. No reply was sent to him, and the Vartabet who brought the message was placed under a sentry. These latter facts are already established.

On the next morning the affair occurred. According to one account, a considerable number of Furnisli and Makkalli were assembling with the view of falling on the convoy of chained prisoners on one side, while Babek, who was in the mountains on the other, and with whom they were in communication, was to attack on the other flank. A company of troops, who, in view of the threatened attack on the camp, was moving out very early in the morning to take up an advanced position, perceived some of these men; a shot was somehow fired, and then the troops fired on them and pursued them to Makkal. Thirteen or fifteen Christians were, I believe, killed. It is asserted that the natives fired back, but there is very little evidence to that effect, and not a single soldier was wounded. According to this account the Bishop had never left Makkal; and as he was found in a granary, and only half-dressed, where he was said to have taken refuge on the arrival of the soldiery, there is something in support of it. According to the other account, in compliance with his intention to visit the Pashas and protest solemnly against the violence and oppression that were going on, he was advancing with a small party of thirty people, many unarmed, and the others merely carrying, as is the custom of the country, the long flint-lock gun, when he was fired at by the troops, and his whole party fled in confusion.

1. In any case there is abundant evidence that excesses and outrages were going on and that the population had received just cause of exaggeration and provocation.

2. That the Bishop, whatever his original intentions may have been, was anxious to present his petition personally to the Pasha.

3. That it is utterly beyond question that there was no intention of attacking the camp. The number of people comprising the party was somewhere between 80 and 100. The ridiculous absurdity of their attacking a camp in a strong position occupied by over 2,000 soldiers, with guns, is evident, and the scene of the conflict makes it more so—a valley 1,500 feet below this camp, and whence the approach to the latter is difficult and commanded throughout, when, had there been any intention of attack,

the mountains overlooking the camp, and affording secure retreat in case of disaster, would of course have been selected.

4. That a mere order to do so would have been, if necessary, sufficient to disperse the mob. But there is little doubt that the Turks were only too glad to seize an opportunity for anything which should seem to give semblance to the idea of a rebellion, and which might place the whole town of Zeitoun at their mercy.

The eagerness of Weissi Pasha and Mayhar Pasha (the Liva) to treat all the Zeitounli as rebels is well exemplified by the following incident:—Mr. Montgomery was in the town, and at the request of some of the Notables, proceeded to the camp. He assured the Pasha of the peaceable disposition of the population, and after some talk Weissi Pasha said that if so they had better arm themselves and patrol their streets, and see that no outsiders entered. This they did; but next day, on the occasion of a gun being fired in the direction of the town, they again besought him to accompany them to the camp. He complied, and on arrival at the Pasha's tent the Furnus affair was already over. Speaking of it, Mazhar Pasha triumphantly remarked, "There, I told you so; it is rebellion. Now what can you say? We can now destroy the town; they are all rebels."

It is also a very noteworthy point that, in spite of the assertion of the Turkish authorities, that the rebels were about to attack the camp, the official Masbata, or deposition, says nothing of the sort, but that soldiers who were going to take up position fell in with some people, who fired on them. It would be impossible, indeed, for Weissi Pasha or anyone else to manufacture an official document duly supported by any evidence that would in any way represent the affair as he was pleased to do.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 426.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 279. Confidential.)

Rome, June 22, 1879.

My Lord,

M. DEPRETIS informed me to-day that the Italian Government had lost no time in offering to place an Italian ship-of-war at the disposal of Prince Battenberg, to convey his Highness from Brindisi to Constantinople; but it seemed, M. Depretis said, although the offer had been made at once, at least as soon as the Prince arrived at Vienna, that it had come too late, a Russian ship having been already accepted.

His Excellency expressed regret that the Prince should appear at Constantinople for the first time in a ship under the Russian flag; but he seemed to derive some satisfaction when I told him I had reason to believe that the Sultan had placed a palace at the Prince's disposal, so that, at least, he would not be lodged at the Russian Embassy.

The Prince is expected to arrive in Rome on the 25th instant, and has accepted an invitation from the German Ambassador to stay at the German Embassy. M. de Kendell tells me he believes he will remain until the 28th or 29th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 427.

Captain Coope to Mr. Currie.—(*Received June 28.*)

122, *Pall Mall, June 28, 1879.*

Dear Mr. Currie,

WITH reference to our conversation of yesterday, and your request that I would put into the form of a letter the substance of what I then said to you, I do not think I can better commence than by giving you two quotations from letters I have received, from different sources, since I left Turkey last month:—

"*Adrianople, May 19, 1879.*

"I have already been able to see into the working of the gendarmerie, and I am sure you would agree with me that it will not and cannot stand, unless proper rank and 'Firmans' are given to the English officers. The Beys and Turkish officials are, of course, against the English officers' mode of work and principle. The former used to

make a profit out of what should have been a duty, and their men did the same. Bribery and intimidation were in the place of order and justice. Assaults, robberies, &c., were bought off at so much a crime. If your neighbour gave a higher price than you, you became the victim. Now all is changed. The men, if they do not do their duty, know they will be punished, and also the officers. The people get redress; all things are sifted—inquired into; consequently, the Turkish officers vent their spleen by asserting that the Englishmen are only contract officers, and have no real power to enforce their orders. This statement is only too well confirmed by the action of the authorities, notably that of Osman Pasha, who looks upon Baker Pasha and his officers with a jealous eye. Hitherto, Colonels Blunt and Whitty have been able to carry their point here, as they have been supported by Reouf Pasha, who is influenced by personal friendship towards Colonel Blunt; but a Turkish Colonel of zaptiehs is daily expected from Constantinople, who will assume command of the gendarmerie here, and upset everything. Now, if the English Government are in earnest about the gendarmerie being commanded by English officers, they must insist upon these officers being placed in a position which would strengthen, instead of rendering nil, their usefulness."

"*Constantinople, June 20, 1879.*

"There is no chance of a gendarmerie at present. Osman Pasha refuses to give us a 'Firman.' He called us 'certain hired men, of whom he knew nothing.' He snubbed Blunt, who has done good work at Adrianople, and would not give him a man, but promised him the Third Class of the Osmanie instead. He said, 'You wear a pretty dress, and are well paid; what more do you want?'"

The English officers arrived in Constantinople in May 1877. Their three years' contract expires at the end of next June. Although we have received our pay regularly, we have not been employed on the semblance of even gendarmerie duty, with the exceptions of Colonels Blunt and Whitty, who were sent to Adrianople with Reouf Pasha, at that Pasha's urgent request; Colonel Fawcett, who was sent to Crete last year, through Sir Henry Layard's influence, but returned immediately, as, having no Firman, they refused to acknowledge him there; and Colonel Allix, who went to Crete last month, armed with a Firman, obtained through Sir Henry Layard, and who may therefore succeed. We have, however, all of us given our voluntary services in other capacities to the Turkish Government—succouring the refugees, making roads, doing ambulance work, and as soldiers in the field.

After the treatment Colonels Blunt and Fawcett have received, as well as many other signs of the light in which we are regarded by Turkish officialism, it is not to be wondered at if we have become convinced that we are only retained as a political necessity till the expiration of our contracts next year. We have sufficiently mastered the language to be able, on ordinary occasions, to dispense with an interpreter, and have gained such experience in the ways of the country and prejudices of the people as to be able to carry on the duty, not only without grating upon such prejudices, but even supported by the goodwill of those working under us. As a matter of fact, we are more popular with the rank and file of the Turkish army than are the native officers. We are still confident, provided a fair field be given us, that we can perform the work which Europe expects of us. By a fair field, I would imply nothing short of superior rank to every native officer with whom we have to do, and a responsibility to our chief, Baker Pasha, alone. This latter should be allowed to carry out his scheme untrammelled by the jealousy and intrigue of Turkish Pashas such as Ghazi Osman, and, in his turn, be held responsible to the Sultan only. That a superior rank has been found a necessity in Eastern Roumelia, where reforms are really desired, is proved by the promotion of Colonels Vitalis and Borthwick to the gendarmerie there, with the rank of Liva Pasha. If Baker Pasha held the rank of "Mushir" (which has been conferred on Hobart Pasha for less brilliant services), and we, his subordinates, that of "Ferik," or "Liva," with responsibility to the Sultan only, the commencement of important reforms need not await the raising of a Turkish loan, for we could quickly bring the existing force of zaptiehs into a satisfactory organization at a very small outlay.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) WM. JESSIE COOPE.

No. 428.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28, 11·47 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 27, 1879, 9 A.M.*

AT a meeting of the Commission held this day on demand of Austrian Commissioner, Russian Commissioner alone refused to accept communication from M. Kállay on the subject of Jewish incident, and it therefore was not made.

Russian ground of objection to the communication was that he could not take part in the discussion which necessarily [? would follow].

Italian Commissioner stated he had received instructions, completing and explaining previous powers, to the effect that Ottoman troops cannot be called in without advice of majority of Commission, which should exercise a control in other matters, but only in a consultative faculty. He declared himself ready to take part in the discussion of the matters relating to the exact application of Statute.

German Commissioner announced that his instructions were now identical with [?] of his Austrian colleague, and specified that advice of the Commission could only be in the matter of calling in troops. French Commissioner expects the Baron to bring further instructions to-morrow from Constantinople.

I confined myself to mentioning that Greeks had addressed to the Commission a petition, which I handed to Secretaries.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 429.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 505.) *Constantinople, June 27, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Captain Sale's telegram, I should be glad if your Lordship would inform me whether the recall of Hussein Pasha will be considered sufficient reparation to the Boundary Commission, so that it will continue its work, or what more is required.

No. 430.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28, 6 P.M.)

(No. 50.) *Rome, June 28, 1879, 3:30 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Minister has informed Prince Alexander that it would give Sultan much pleasure to receive His Highness in the manner proposed by him, viz., he will stop opposite Palace on the Bosphorus, pay his visit, receive investiture, and then proceed on his voyage to Varna. Prince delighted with this solution. He intended leaving Brindisi on Monday, but, as this would bring him to Constantinople on Friday, he has begged Turkish Minister to telegraph that, if Friday is inconvenient to Sultan, he will delay his departure from here for another day.

(Sent to Layard.)

No. 431.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 509.) *Constantinople, June 28, 1879.*

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE seen the Sultan, who will receive Prince Battenberg on his way through Constantinople, as His Highness has proposed. His Majesty says he is very anxious to see the Prince, and that, by the present arrangement, the risk anticipated from his stopping here will be obviated.

(Sent to Rome.)

No. 432.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 511.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 28, 1879.*

I SPOKE to the Sultan very seriously to-day as to his neglect of the Austrian Ambassador and the [group wrong] effect which it produced at Vienna, and I advised him not to allow any personal feelings to influence him in a matter of so much political importance as a good understanding with Austria. His Majesty said he would act upon my advice, and I trust [? he will] do so. He told me his reports from Bosnia as to treatment of Mussulmans by Austrian authorities were now much more satisfactory, and, he added, he was quite ready to enter into a [? coalition with] Austria, and would gladly avail himself of the good offices of Her Majesty's Government to bring one about.

No. 433.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 28, 1879.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL being in [? town] I have again made strong representation to Secretary-General on Jewish incident. Police officer has returned with report signed by all the Carlova authorities, exculpating themselves and expressing regret. They [? state] that women were excited by sight of Jews implicated in massacre; but, as a matter of fact, the authorities had previously convinced themselves that such Jews were not among the number. The authorities also blame Jews for coming without letter from Central Government, but they came on official written invitation of local authorities. I told Secretary [? that] such an explanation would not be accepted, and that circumstances demanded a thorough and strict inquiry, resulting in satisfaction to Jews and punishment of offenders, including authorities.

Turkish Commissioner has made representations respecting destruction of Ottoman property, and I have again spoken strongly on the subject.

No. 434.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, June 28, 1879.*

AFTER renewed representations to Governor-General and [? Directors] on the Jewish incident, [? they] have appointed a Commission of five officials, of whom three administrative and two judicial. A Greek Judge and a Catholic Bulgarian are among the number, also the Police Master of this town, who is a Pole. The Commission start at daybreak to-morrow with half a squadron of cavalry. A battalion of militia will be sent later as a garrison.

No. 435.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 836.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 29, 1879.*

I HAVE been given to understand by the German Ambassador that the German Government agree to the ideas respecting the recognition of Roumania mentioned in my despatch to your Excellency No. 816 of the 27th instant.

I should be glad to learn, at as early a period as possible, the opinion of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to these suggestions, as it must be borne in

mind that there is always a possibility of Roumania resolving to dispense with our recognition altogether.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 436.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 844.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1879.*

Sir,

IN a telegram which has been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna I informed his Excellency that the Austrian Government deprecated the proposed survey by the Montenegrin Boundary Commission on account of the delay which would be thereby caused in the operations of the Commission, and that their Ambassador in London was urging that the Austrian Staff Map should be accepted by the Commission as their guide in delimitating the frontier.

I have told Count Károlyi that I was disposed to recommend that a new survey should be made of the particular localities in dispute, so as to obviate the danger of enabling the Albanians to assert that the letter of the Treaty of Berlin had been violated in demarcating their territory.

I further said that in consideration of this concession it might be hoped that the Porte would consent to apply to the Montenegrin Commission the principle of decision by the majority as have been agreed to in the case of the other European Boundary Commissions.

In reply to your inquiry, whether the recall of Hussein Pasha would be considered a sufficient reparation for the obstacles which have been placed in the way of the Commission, I have informed your Excellency by telegraph that if the removal of Hussein Pasha is really carried into effect, there can be no necessity for any further redress on the part of the Ottoman Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 437.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 420.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1879.*

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI, in speaking to me to-day respecting the interruption in the work of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, urged that the Austrian Staff Map should be accepted as the basis of the decisions of the Commission, and deprecated a new survey of the ground on account of the delay which it would unavoidably entail.

I pointed out to his Excellency that it would be dangerous to give such a nation as the Albanians a plausible pretext for saying that the letter of the Treaty of Berlin had been violated in the demarcation of the territory which would be assigned to them under its provisions, and that I was consequently disposed to recommend a new survey of the particular localities which are in dispute.

I said that it was possible that, in consideration of this concession, the Turks might consent to apply to the Montenegrin Commission the principle of decision by the majority, which has been accepted in the case of other Commissions, and has tended greatly to facilitate their labours.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 438.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1879, 11·30 P.M.*

YOURS 505. If Hussein Pasha is really removed there can be no need for further reparation.

But see my telegram to Sir H. Elliot repeated to your Excellency to-day.

No. 439.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1879, 11·45 P.M.*

I UNDERSTAND from German Ambassador that Germany agrees to ideas about recognition of Roumania mentioned in my despatch to you of Friday.

I should be glad to know, at as early a period as possible, opinion of French Minister, as there is always possibility of Roumania resolving to do without our recognition.

No. 440.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 29, 1879, midnight.*

AS to Montenegro, Count Károlyi urged that Austrian Staff Map should be accepted by Commission, and deprecated new survey on account of delay. I said I thought it dangerous to enable Albanians to say that the letter of the Treaty had been violated in demarcating their territory, and I recommend a new survey of the particular localities in dispute. I said that perhaps, in consideration of this concession, Turks would consent to apply to Montenegrin Commission principle of majority which had been applied to other Commissions.

No. 441.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 94. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 28, 1879.*

IN answer to a telegram *en clair* from your Lordship, received on Monday last, and requesting the repetition of one sent by myself on Saturday previous, I had the honour yesterday afternoon to telegraph to the following effect:—

"That affairs in general throughout the Principality were in an unsatisfactory condition, and that several disorders and acts of robbery and crime were reported from various quarters; that matters looked badly on the Macedonian frontier; and that, these things considered, the arrival of the new Prince, with the least possible convenient delay, was earnestly to be desired in view of bringing the actual interregnum to an end."

To this telegram I subjoined a short comment in my despatch No. 93, Political, of the 25th instant, and to which I have the honour to refer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 442.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 95. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 31, 1879.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 57 dated from Tirnovo the 7th April, present year, and containing the original programme for the evacuation of Bulgaria and

Eastern Roumelia by the Russian army of occupation, I have the honour to report the following military movements:—

Divisions 12 of the 4th Army Corps and 16 of the 5th have, I am informed, already left the territory, the former by Rustchuk, on its way to Reni, the second, so far as I can learn, by Bourgas.

Division 30 of the 4th Army Corps and 31 of the 12th are already in movement for the frontier; the point of first departure of the former being Slivno, that of the latter Sophia. Thus, the four regiments composing the 31st Division set out by the Orkhanieh road on four successive days of the present week from this place. Their departure took place with much parade and public demonstrations of gratitude, in which the clergy bore a leading part.

When these two divisions have crossed the frontier, the 5th Division of the 5th Army Corps and the 33rd of the 12th, the former now stationed at Philippopolis and the latter at Shumla, will begin their movement; and their departure, accompanied by eight cavalry squadrons, at present on the southern frontier, with the artillery of the two divisions themselves, will complete the military evacuation several days before the expiration of the stipulated term.

The Staff and field-batteries of the four divisions first enumerated have left already.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 443.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 96. Political.)
Sophia, May 31, 1879.

My Lord,

REGARDING the southern or Macedonian frontier of this Principality, I have the honour to report—

The unsettled condition of the adjoining districts and of their inhabitants, and the frequent occurrence of acts of lawlessness and brigandage, in which both Mahommedans and Christians, the former, it would appear however more extensively than the latter, take part, seems to require special protective measures. Those taken by the Provisional Military Government are as follows:

Four squadrons of the Kieff Hussars and as many of Cossacks have been temporarily left along the line extending from Samakoff to Kustendil and the Servian frontier. These squadrons will, however, be withdrawn after a fortnight or three weeks; and a single squadron of Bulgarian cavalry, at present at Widdin, will be brought down, and will form the mounted guard of the frontier.

But, in addition to these, over two thousand men, who have just been discharged from the three militia battalions of the south district, and whose arms are kept in the depôts of Samakoff, Dubnitza, and Kustendil, will as village residents be, in case of danger, ready at call. Along with these, the 1,800 men who at present compose the three active battalions of the district are at their respective posts. They have with them one field-battery. Lastly, a village guard, consisting of peasants who go through drill and gun practice once or twice a week, and whose arms, duly numbered and ticketed, are kept under care and at the responsibility of the village headmen, furnishes 3,000 men. So that a total of rather more than 7,000 men, though of unequal quality and skill, is ready along the Macedonian frontier to keep the peace, or to resist attack if required.

These preparations are, in their actual intention, wholly defensive; nor have they, as matters at present stand, any aggressive bearing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 444.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 97. Political.)
Sophia, May 31, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, in regard of the West Bulgarian, or Servian, frontier,

Colonel Kaulbars, the Russian member of the Frontier Delimitation Commission, arrived here four days since from the vicinity of Pirot, to which point the Commission had worked its way from the south upwards, and reported that the frontier had been thus far accurately defined and staked off, in accordance with the indications given by the Treaty of Berlin.

The districts of Trn and Bresniza, or Bresnik, containing, at rough computation, about 60,000 inhabitants, and occupied ever since last summer by the Servian Administration, have accordingly been readjudged to Bulgaria, and the Servian Government has received due notice of the fact, with a request for the withdrawal of the obtrusive officials. Nor does there seem any doubt as to its compliance.

For what regards the northern or Kula district, Colonel Plevi, sent by the Imperial Russian Commissary to adjust the disputed line, in concert with a Servian Commissioner of similar powers, is at present, with his colleague, at Nisch, but will, it is expected, shortly proceed to the frontier in question.

So much ill-feeling has been excited in Bulgaria by the alleged Servian encroachments, that the definite settlement of the disputed points, as thereby putting an end to a long dissension, may be looked on as an important event.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 445.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 98. Political.)
Sophia, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship in the following sense:—

"That the news of Her Majesty's gracious invitation to Prince Alexander Battenberg to visit Balmoral had produced a most favourable impression on the population here.

"That the Russian Government had made arrangements for having the Prince-Elect conveyed from Brindisi to Constantinople on board a Russian steamer, as also for lodging him while at Constantinople, not indeed, it would seem, actually within the Embassy, but in some other locality provided by themselves."

Of these arrangements, as well as of that by which the Prince-Elect made his first public appearance at Livadia, and there received the Bulgarian deputation, instead of doing so at Darmstadt, as had been originally purposed, the Imperial Russian Commissary takes to himself the entire credit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 446.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 99. Political.)
Sophia, June 2, 1879.

My Lord,

THE subject being one on which accurate information may be useful, I have the honour to report to your Lordship as follows:—

All the Russian common soldiers of "Cadre" placed in the Bulgarian militia regiments have been removed, their posts being occupied by Bulgarian soldiers, formed in the training school, closed about a month since, of Elena. This measure was facilitated by the reduction of the numbers composing the battalions themselves, which have been brought down to a footing of 600 instead of 1,000 men a-piece.

There remain, however, attached to the Bulgarian militia, 160 Russian soldiers as working specialists, chiefly, if not exclusively, in connection with the artillery-trains, transport, and commissariat service. These are reckoned not as soldiers, but as skilled artizans.

Of Russian officers, superior or inferior, there remain in the Bulgarian militia about ninety, their names having been previously struck off the Russian army list, and their rank cancelled. These latter measures are merely, of course, for appearance sake, as they are submitted to on the express understanding that readmission to their former rank and position in the Russian army will, on application, be granted whenever they quit the Bulgarian service. It is probable, however, that not a few young officers from among the number will permanently retain their commissions in the Principality.

If to the total amount of Russian element existing under the conditions above-mentioned in the Bulgarian army we add the Bulgarian military pupils themselves, at present receiving their education in Russia, as stated in my despatch No. 92, Political, it will be easy to arrive at a correct appreciation of the degree of, if the word may be permitted, Russification of the Bulgarian army at the present moment and for some years to come.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 447.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 100. Political.) *Sophia, June 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that within the last ten days three national institutions, of different character and importance, have been opened at this capital.

The first, a "Cour de Cassation," or Supreme Court of Appeal, with jurisdiction for the entire Principality. It consists of a President, three Assistant Judges, and a Secretary, all Bulgarians.

The second, a National Bank. Paid-up capital, 2,000,000 fr.; Director, a Frenchman, educated in Russia. Of this institution I hope shortly to have the honour of supplying the details, so soon as the amended programme, now in the press, shall have been (according to the promise of the Director) communicated to me.

The third, a sort of Boarding-house and Asylum for male orphans of the better class, chiefly selected from among the Bulgarian refugees from Macedonia. The actual number of admittances is thirty, but more will come. These lads are kept under strict discipline, receive a thorough education entirely at the expense of the Municipality, and may, some of them, rise to influence.

All these three institutions were opened with much and appropriate ceremony, in which the Imperial Russian Commissary and the Bishop of the diocese bore leading part. The foreign Delegates were invited to the opening of the first, but not of the other two.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 448.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 101. Political.) *Sophia, June 9, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the news daily received here from Macedonia causes considerable disquiet in the Principality.

Insurgent bands, composed chiefly, it seems, of Bulgarian outlaws, and under the guidance of the leaders of last autumn, molest, it is said, the Valley of the Wardar and the neighbourhood of Veles, and are reported to have twice attacked and attempted to set fire to the town of Uskub. Conflicts with the regular troops, in which the latter have been worsted, are also talked of. At Giergüli, on the Mitrovitza line, a band of 350 brigands, under the well-known Stoianoff, are said to have occupied a position

commanding the main route from Salonica North, whence, however, they were subsequently dislodged, and retired into the mountainous region of Tekvish.

So far as men, means, and ammunition are concerned, these disorders are, at the present time, totally unconnected with, and unsupported by, the Bulgarians of this Principality. But a strong feeling of apprehension exists on the southern frontier, in consequence of the anarchy believed to prevail beyond it; and already the Christian inhabitants of Juma'a and its adjoining villages, to the number, it is stated, of about 15,000 souls, have, in view of the approaching retrocession of this district to Turkish rule, and dreading its inability to repress impending disorders, have, with hardly an exception, emigrated into the Dubnitza, Samakoff, Radomir, and Kustendil districts of the Principality, and there taken refuge, no one seeming to entertain any rational hope of security for life or property along this part of the frontier. This is the more to be regretted, because expectations of such a character have a tendency to induce their own fulfilment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 449.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 102. Political.) *Sophia, June 10, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Colonel Schepeleff, late member, on behalf of the Russian Government, of the European Commission sitting at Philippopolis, arrived here yesterday to make some preliminary arrangements for the position assigned him in this Principality, as Military Attaché to the Russian Diplomatic Representation in Bulgaria.

Colonel Schepeleff will quit Sophia on or about the 14th of this month for Constantinople, whence he embarks in a Russian steamer to meet the Bulgarian Prince-Elect at Brindisi, with whom he returns to the Ottoman capital, where, it is said, his Highness will be lodged in the Begler Bey Palace.

Colonel Schepeleff will subsequently accompany the Prince to Tirnovo and Sophia, at which latter place he will remain, in discharge of the duties already indicated, till further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 450.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 103. Political.) *Sophia, June 11, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that large numbers of Turkish Mahommedans, chiefly discharged Redifs, are at the present time continually arriving from Constantinople at Varna, whence they proceed to the inland, chiefly in the direction of the Deli-Orman district and Osman-Bazar.

They are, as I am informed through the French Consulate-General, almost always unaccompanied by wives or children, while, by all accounts, the gradual emigration of Turkish families, after the sale of their property, continues unabated from all parts of Bulgaria.

Several acts of robbery and violence, such as, in these countries, are often indicative of general and widespread mischief in preparation, have lately taken place within the region in question, one particularly adapted, by its union of abrupt rock and dense underwood to brigandage, and its shelter, and containing an almost exclusively Mahommedan population, roughly estimated at 40,000 or 50,000, well supplied with arms.

I regret to add that the imprudent and threatening language too often used by the Turko-Bulgarian inhabitants of the Principality, as to what they intend doing after the departure of the Russian troops, has lent countenance to the notion, now generally entertained, of an intended Mahommedan rising in the Osman-Bazar, Shumla, and Deli-

Orman districts, a nation not in disaccord with the somewhat suspicious circumstances already alluded to, nor with the probabilities of things.

I may add that the undoubted disquietude of a large portion of the Mahommedan population of Bulgaria is persistently explained by Russian and occasionally by Bulgarian assertion, as due to secret emissaries and instigations from Constantinople, an hypothesis of equal value with that which ascribes analogous movements among the Christian populations of Macedonia or Thrace to similar emissaries and instigations from other quarters.

As, however, the evacuation now in progress necessarily occasions a kind of crisis in the popular feeling, I shall continue, but with more insistance than ever, to inculcate on those here in office the necessity, not merely of justice and impartiality, but even of a certain delicacy and tenderness in action, where the Mahommedan populations of this Principality are concerned, and if the line of conduct adopted be, as I seriously trust it will, in accordance with these principles, I hope that the danger, though to a certain extent undoubtedly real, may be tided over, and gradually disappear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 451.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 104. Political.)
Sophia, June 13, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report a certain amount of excitement has been occasioned here by the recruit-enlistment, which being fixed by existing regulations for the last fortnight in May, old style, has just taken place.

Some days previous the Chief Rabbi, or Hakam-Bashi, of the Bulgarian Jews, accompanied by several Elders of the community, having called upon me, I prevailed on him to abandon a scheme of resistance to the conscription which, at the persuasion of a leading Turk, here resident, he had inclined to, and convinced him that exemption in this matter would be very injurious to Israelite interests. On this he promised me that he would use his influence to persuade those of his tribe to compliance, and so he did.

But when the Jews, summoned in due turn, presented themselves for conscription at the Municipality, it appeared that of the 2,300 who form the male Hebrew population of Sophia, not one was of the age comprised between 18 and 25, all, without exception, being either below or beyond that period, and consequently not liable to enlistment.

This difficulty was, however, met by a sudden extension for the Jews, and on this occasion only, of the age of military liability to 16 at the lower and 30 at the upper end of the scale, whereby a reasonable number of recruits was secured. But the gain was only apparent, as the recruits immediately proved themselves to be either newly married men, and consequently not liable, according to their law, to military service, or subjects of foreign Powers, chiefly Austrian, Italian, or Persian.

The Austrian and Italian Consuls having, however, declined to interfere on the occasion, and the Persian certificates being gross and evident impostures, the enlistment proceeded, and the Israelites, finding themselves outmanœuvred, submitted to the common regulations with a readiness and unanimity very honourable to their good sense.

During the confusion occasioned by these incidents, some Israelites whose liability was really doubtful having applied to me, I represented their case to the Bulgarian magistrate, who gave them the benefit of the doubt, and discharged them accordingly. I am informed that the same was done in other analogous cases.

The Zinganes, or gipsies, a large colony of whom is habitually encamped in this plain, furnished their recruits readily. The Mahommedans, who persist in their refusal to serve, were again exempted, but without being called on for any compensation in money or otherwise, such as they, when in power, imposed on the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 452.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 106. Political.)
Sophia, June 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the districts of Trn, Bresnik, and Kula, assigned by the Treaty of Berlin to the Principality of Bulgaria, but hitherto in Servian possession, have been militarily occupied by the Bulgarian troops, acting under the orders of the Imperial Russian Commissioner for this Principality, and have further received a Bulgarian Civil Administration similar to that established elsewhere.

The Servian officials, on quitting the districts of Trn and Bresnik, are stated to have carried off with them the Government moneys and archives belonging to the same—a proceeding which will give rise to further, and possibly contentious, correspondence between the Governments in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 453.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 107. Political.)
Sophia, June 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian Commissary, Prince Dondoukoff, has stated to me that the number of able-bodied Turks, almost exclusively Redifs, who have lately arrived at Varna, on their way to the Shumla and Osman-Bazar districts, reaches 9,000; and that the number of Turks, armed and ripe for insurrection, in the above-mentioned districts, is somewhat over 12,000 already.

I give these statements and figures solely on his Excellency's authority. On the same authority rests the reiterated statement, to which I, in conversation, steadily refused credence—that the above movement, of the substantial reality of which there is, I fear, no doubt, was excited and entertained by emissaries from Constantinople.

Suspicion has also fallen on three English travellers, whose names I have been unable to procure, said to have lately visited the districts in question, and to have been in intimate relations with the quasi-insurgent Turkish population. This idea also I strongly and indignantly disclaimed, as dishonourable to my countrymen, whoever they might be. Meanwhile I have, by letter, requested Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul at Varna to send me whatever information he may possess on these topics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 454.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 108. Political.)
Sophia, June 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following to your Lordship's consideration:—

The Russian Imperial Commissary having announced that, with the arrival and inauguration of the Prince-Elect, Alexander of Battenberg, at Tirnovo, his own mandate and office came absolutely to an end, it would appear that the mandates and functions of the delegates *ad hoc*, as defined by Article VI of the Treaty of Berlin, similarly and simultaneously come to an end also. Such is, too, I find, the unanimous opinion of my colleagues here present.

Secondly, I have to note that the Russian Government, which seems to intend maintaining here the fullest possible representation, has already conferred on its resident Consul-General the rank and title of Diplomatic Agent; and I am informed by my colleagues that the Austrian, French, Italian, and, perhaps, German Consulates-General are considered as placed on the same footing.

Such being the case, I have the honour respectfully to suggest whether a similar character should not, in accordance with the rules and customs of Her Majesty's

Foreign Office, be assigned to Her Majesty's Consul-General in this Principality, in order that the representation of British interests and policy may not be at a disadvantage in a not unimportant respect alongside of the representations of other interests and policies, the Russian in particular.

This view is, I believe, illustrated and further defined by the precedents of Her Majesty's Consular Service in Servia and Roumania, at a time when those Principalities were under conditions analogous to those of Bulgaria at present.

Other and accessory motives might be adduced, but the above seem to me chiefly worthy of notice, and, as such, I have ventured humbly to submit them to your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 155.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 168.) *Athens, June 13, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding telegram of this day, I have the honour to report that the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me in a note, dated the 12th instant, that M. A. G. Coundouriotis, Greek Minister at Constantinople, and M. S. Brailas Armenes, Greek Minister at St. Petersburgh, have been named Plenipotentiaries at Constantinople, and that the number of Plenipotentiaries will be increased in the event of the Ottoman Government appointing more than two. To the above communication M. Delyanni adds the expression of the hope that this proceeding will tend to bring about a result in conformity with the decisions taken by the Powers, and recorded in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, from which the Greek Government must not depart.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 156.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 156.) *Belgrade, June 17, 1879.*

My Lord,

SCARCELY had the International Commission begun last month the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, before Colonel Kaulbars, the Russian Commissioner, commenced pressing his Servian colleague to cause the districts of Pru and Bresnik to be evacuated by Servia, as they were clearly beyond the limits assigned to the Principality; but the latter refused to act in the matter, alleging that it was a question to be directly settled between their respective Governments.

I had previously remonstrated on many occasions, both with M. Ristics and the Russian Minister here, respecting the continued presence of Servian troops and officials in the above territories, in flagrant violation of the prescriptions of Article XLI of the Treaty of Berlin.

The former stated they would be withdrawn the very moment the frontier had been fixed by the Commission, but he persistently refused to give up these districts until then —first, because there was an understanding to that effect between the military authorities on both sides; and, secondly, because he had but little faith that any territory awarded to Servia by the decisions of the Commission would ever be restored to her once she had let go her hold over it. He, however, always professed the greatest anxiety to have the questions connected with this frontier definitively settled by the Commission at the earliest possible date.

The latter was reluctant to press the Servian Government in any way with regard to a matter to which he then attached no importance, and it is only recently that he has taken it up in earnest.

In the course of conversation with Prince Milan, His Highness graciously deigned to explain the whole question in detail.

It seems according to this version, that after the capture of Nisch and Pirot by the Servians, they nowhere met with any organized resistance to their onward progress, the result being that on one side some of their cavalry actually entered Sophia, only three

hours after the Russians had taken possession of it, and on the other they proceeded as far as Radomir.

Seeing this, the Russian Commander-in-chief sent a Captain of his Staff to Prince Milan's head-quarters to request that orders should be immediately issued to stop the further advance of the Servian troops, proposing, at the same time, that each army should remain in the position it occupied at the time.

After some demur on the part of the Servian Staff, a verbal arrangement was come to and a line of demarcation drawn between the two forces.

At a subsequent period a Russian field-officer was sent, and the previous verbal agreement was more explicitly defined and finally reduced to writing.

The Servian troops were therefore withdrawn from some of the more advanced positions they had succeeded in reaching, which were handed over to the Russians.

It is on the faith of this informal written military convention, the existence of which is, however, questioned in some quarters, that Servia considers herself justified, as regards Russia, in refusing to release her temporary hold of Tru and Bresnik, especially as that Power had in some sort tacitly acquiesced in this infraction of the Treaty of Berlin.

Nevertheless, the Servian Government, knowing the work of tracing this frontier would be shortly completed, had not attempted to proceed with the military conscription in those districts which had long been denuded of troops, and warned the two officials, charged with the provisional administration, to hold themselves in readiness to return to the Principality at a few days' notice.

They were, therefore, exceedingly surprised and annoyed on finding that Russian and Bulgarian troops had been suddenly sent there at the demand of Colonel Kaulbars, although the Commission had not yet wholly terminated its task on that side.

The Sous-Préfet of Tru, who is a native of that town, but in the regular Civil Service of the Servian Government, was violently threatened, and was at first reported to have been arrested.

In answer to the protest against this alleged proceeding, Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, who seems throughout to have acted with extreme precipitation, replied that the Servian Government must have been misinformed; but that as the individual in question had been guilty of various delinquencies, he proposed to submit to them formal charges against him.

What probably gave rise to the report of this Servian official's arrest is, that the Russian military authorities refused to take over the administration, and that consequently he and his colleague at Bresnik were compelled to wait several days before they were relieved of their duties by the Bulgarian officials who had to be sent for in all haste to replace them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 157.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 158. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, June 17, 1879.*

M. RISTICH has kindly read to me a private and confidential letter he had just received from Prince Milan in reply to the observations he had submitted to His Highness on the subject of the verbal communication I had addressed to his Excellency, in conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 55 of the 24th ultimo respecting the serious responsibility Servia would incur if she prevented the peaceable return of the Albanians who had been driven from their homes by the events of the late war.

His Highness expresses himself as very strongly opposed to the readmission within his dominions of these Albanians, on the ground that they have forfeited all claim on his clemency, some of them by having been guilty of resisting, with arms in their hands, the advance of his troops into their country; others by having obstinately insisted, without sufficient reason, upon being permitted to emigrate with all their goods and chattels to Albania; and others again by being engaged in constant raids into Servian territory, where they laid everything waste by fire and sword.

His Highness further enters into certain military considerations regarding the danger Servia might be exposed to in having a fierce and warlike Mussulman population

within her borders in the contingency of again finding herself engaged in hostilities with Turkey.

His Highness, however, finally comes to the conclusion that, at the instance of the Porte, some of the more peaceably disposed among the Albanians who have not given any serious cause of offence might, under the circumstances, be restored to their homes.

M. Ristich pointedly remarked to me that the above were Prince Milan's personal views on the question, but that it did not by any means follow that they were shared in by his responsible Ministers.

In the course of discussion he readily admitted that those Albanians who had merely taken up arms to defend their homes against a foreign invading army could scarcely be taken to task for it.

He also said that it was in a great measure owing to fear of ill-treatment and a misapprehension of the intentions of the Servian Government towards them which had afterwards induced great numbers to emigrate voluntarily.

He promised to exert his influence to the utmost on behalf of these people, and in the meanwhile confidentially suggested that the Porte's representative here should be informed of the interest taken in this question by Her Majesty's Government, and be induced to co-operate with me in pressing it upon the attention of the Servian Government.

I have accordingly placed myself in communication with the Turkish Envoy here, who has engaged to apply at once to his Government for instructions, as well as with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 458.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord,
Belgrade, June 17, 1879.

THE revulsion of feeling in Servia towards Russia, to which I had occasion to allude in my Confidential despatch No. 135 of the 4th instant, has become so marked of late that the Russian Minister here has thought proper to address a note to the Servian Government, complaining of the conduct of the local authorities at Jagodina, whom he accuses of having permitted his Imperial Master to be publicly spoken of in disrespectful terms in a coffee-house of that town.

He therefore demands that prompt measures should be at once taken to insure the detection and condign punishment of the offenders.

It would be a matter of no small surprise to me were the investigation, which the Servian Government will doubtless set on foot in deference to the request of the Russian Representative, to be attended with any practical or satisfactory results, and I therefore venture to doubt the expediency of the course he has committed himself to in taking formal notice of second-hand reports of coffee-house conversations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 459.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord,
Belgrade, June 17, 1879.

ON my remarking, in the course of a recent conversation with M. Ristich, that, however much I approved of the decision taken by the Servian Government to allow the Vacouf property in Pirot to be administered by, and for the sole use of, the Mahommedan community of that district, as reported in my despatch No. 127 of the 29th ultimo, I could not help thinking the matter was one which, according to the stipulations of Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, ought properly to be settled by a mixed Turco-Servian Commission. His Excellency assured me the measure was merely of a provisional character, pending the meeting of the above-named Commission.

I therefore lost no time in communicating the substance of this conversation to the Turkish Minister here, and in pointing out the necessity of urging the Sublime Porte to

take immediate steps for the appointment of this Commission, seeing that nearly a twelvemonth has elapsed since the conclusion of the Treaty, and that, in conformity with its prescriptions, this, and many other kindred questions of an extremely complicated nature, must be finally disposed of within the next two years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 460.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 162. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord,
Belgrade, June 20, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 157 of the 5th instant on the subject of the Servo-Russian conflict respecting the old frontier at Veliki Izvor, I have received trustworthy information, from a perfectly impartial source, that the Emperor of Russia takes a personal interest in this petty question, which Prince Milan, in the course of conversation with me, truly qualified as "une misérable querelle de paysans."

When Colonel Catargi was at St. Petersburgh some months ago on a secret mission his Imperial Majesty complained bitterly of the shameful conduct of the Servians in refusing to move back the boundary at this point to where it stood before the war.

His Imperial Majesty finished by saying he would consider Prince Milan's compliance with his express wishes in this matter as a special proof of His Highness' personal regard for him.

Shortly afterwards the Russian Minister here received a private message from Prince Milan, pledging His Highness' word of honour that the question would be promptly settled in the sense desired by the Emperor.

Circumstances have, unfortunately, run counter to His Highness' good intentions, as on certain other memorable occasions, and he therefore finds himself in the peculiar position of not having been able to keep his plighted word to his Imperial friend and protector.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 461.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 166.)
My Lord,
Belgrade, June 23, 1879.

WITH reference to my two telegrams Nos. 3 and 10 of the 12th and 21st instants respectively, on the long pending question of the old frontier at Veliki Izvor, I have to state that, after a sharp interchange of mutually unpalatable recriminations, the Servian Government and the Russian Mission here agreed in writing to send special Commissioners to settle it on the ground, in strict accordance with Captain (now General) Kotzebue's map of 1831, and the terms of the Hatti Sheriff of 1833.

The two officers appointed to act as Commissioners proceeded to the frontier, when the Russian insisted upon the palisade marking the boundary being replaced exactly where it stood before the late war.

The Servian, on his side, objected to this proceeding, holding that, since they had been instructed to trace the frontier according to the above-mentioned map and the accompanying Hatti Sheriff, they must first jointly survey the ground to ascertain the true line of frontier.

His Russian colleague would not hear of anything of the kind, and refused to sign the Protocol recording the divergence of views that had arisen between them, and withdrew to Widdin.

Thereupon the Servian Commissioner, by himself, marked out the frontier, as in his opinion it should be, in conformity with the map in question, and, having concluded his survey, he laid it before his Government.

They, in their turn, addressed a note to the Russian Minister here, declaring their readiness to submit to the demands of the Russian Government, notwithstanding that, according to the conditions agreed upon, as proved by their Commissioner, the old line had been incorrectly traced, but reserving their right of appeal against the decision.

This proposal was not accepted by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, who seems to have taken the direction of the affair entirely out of the hands of the Resident Russian Minister, and by his express orders the Russian Commissioner has returned to the spot with two companies of Russian troops, who have occupied all the ground up to where the old palissade stood, and threaten to shoot down any one who dares to approach them.

The question remains *in statu quo*; but it has been referred to Prince Milan for his decision, although it is extremely unlikely any further action will be taken in it by Servia, for fear of still more irritating her powerful friend and quondam protector.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 462.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 168.)
Belgrade, June 24, 1879.

My Lord,

M. RISTICH has informed me that the Servian frontier authorities, on the side of Bosnia, report that Austro-Hungarian troops are being quietly but gradually concentrated on the extreme frontier in the direction of Novi-Bazar.

His Excellency added that there was considerable agitation amongst the Turkish population of that district, in consequence of the apprehensions of an early advance of the Imperial forces, that earthworks had been thrown up by the inhabitants of Novi-Varos at the entrance of the pass leading to that place, and that measures of defence were being generally taken.

He also confirmed the statements which have frequently reached me of late from private sources, that armed bands have begun to make their appearance in the mountainous parts of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, interfering with the safety of the communications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 463.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 169.)
Belgrade, June 24, 1879.

My Lord,

PRINCE DONDOUKOFF-KORSAKOFF, the Russian Governor-General of Bulgaria, and to some extent also the Russian Government, have given such unequivocal signs of annoyance and resentment at the popular demonstrations and petitions of the inhabitants of the districts of Trn and Breznik, in favour of annexation to this Principality, that, with the object of showing their conciliatory spirit, the Servian Government have thought it advisable to cause the "Communiqué," a translation of which is herewith inclosed, to be published in their official paper, the "Serbski Novnić," of the $\frac{17}{29}$th instant.

In this statement they disclaim ever having entertained the idea of remaining in permanent possession of the above-named districts, since they properly form part of Bulgaria according to the Treaty of Berlin; declare they were powerless to prevent the inhabitants from giving such (in a Russian sense) inconvenient proofs of their Servian sympathies, and carefully gloss over the disagreeable incidents attending the transfer of the administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 463.

Extract from the "Serbski Novine" of June $\frac{17}{29}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to some foreign newspapers, it is stated that the Servian Government took some steps with the Great Powers concerning the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier. Such news, if it were not stated with an object, could only have arisen out of ignorance of facts.

The Plenipotentiary of His Highness Prince Milan at the Berlin Congress, our Minister for Foreign Affairs, took all the necessary steps with the Representatives of the Great Powers, in order that the wishes of the population there, as also of the entire Servian nation, should be fulfilled, and the districts of the eastern frontiers of the Principality united with the country proper—these districts, according to past history of the nationalities, rightfully belonging to us.

Our Minister for Foreign Affairs was so convinced of this fact, and of the desires of the population of the districts, fostered in them by history and the nature of their sires, that during the Congress he proposed to send an International Commission of Inquiry to the spot, as the proper manner to arrive at a true decision upon the case, for it would be able to hear the people speak for themselves in those parts of Turkey; but the Congress did not accept this proposal.

The Servian Government having nevertheless loyally fulfilled their Treaty obligations cannot have other thoughts but to regard the decisions of the Congress in reference to Trn and Breznik, knowing the importance ascribed by the Great Powers of Europe to the punctual and virtual execution of all the clauses of the Treaty.

If the Servian administrative authorities remained up till now in the districts of Trn and Breznik, this was only on account of the agreement made between the Russian Commander-in-chief and the Servian General Staff, who together drew the line of demarcation for the occupation by the Servian troops.

If this frontier, Servo-Bulgarian, had been fixed by the International Servian Boundary Commission last year, the Servian authorities would have retired before now. The delimitation being completed, the Servian administration has handed over to the Russo-Bulgarian authorities the territory decreed to them in the Treaty.

The Servian nation can regret that its desires have not been realized, but the Servian Government, fulfilling loyally its obligations to Europe, cannot think of frustrating or postponing the accomplishment of the transfer, although it could not hinder the voluntary petition of the Servian inhabitants of Trn and Breznik in formulating their wishes to be handed to the members of the International Frontier Commission for Servo-Bulgarian delimitation, which has now fixed the line between us and Bulgaria.

No. 464.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 170.)
Belgrade, June 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that, in obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your despatch No. 60 of the 19th instant, regarding the application made by the Servian Government for a modification of the Servo-Turkish frontier, I have this day addressed a note to M. Ristich in the same terms as those employed by your Lordship in the above despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 465.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 8.)
Servian Boundary Commission, in Camp, Slavinia, 20 miles east of Pirot, June 14, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 and notes of the meeting of the 24th May therein inclosed, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the President of this Commission has received a reply from M. Ristich, the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Belgrade, explaining that the complaint from the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the Kupaonik appears to have arisen from the fact that the Servian authorities in that district have been engaged in cutting poles in readiness for the Boundary Com-

mission when marking the frontier, but that orders have now been issued to cease cutting poles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 466.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

Servian Boundary Commission, in Camp, Slavinia,
(No. 9.) *20 miles east of Pirot, June 15, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 3rd instant, I have now the honour to inclose copies of Protocols Nos. 9, 10, and 11, recording the proceedings of the meetings of the Commission on the 19th, 24th, and 26th May, notes of which meetings were forwarded to your Lordship with that despatch. Copies of the five Annexes to Protocol No. 10 will be sent to your Lordship as soon as I can procure them.

I also transmit notes of the proceedings of the Commission at the meetings on the 30th May and 6th and 13th June, drawn up by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, after those meetings. The Protocols of these meetings have not yet been signed.

On the 6th instant the Commission continued the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier from the point near the Stol marked on the 2nd instant, and after making the necessary reconnaissances, which occupied five days, the marking of the frontier has now been completed to the crest of the Kodza Balkans.

The length of the remaining portion of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, which has yet to be marked, following the crest of the Balkans, is about forty miles, which will probably be completed by the 22nd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Inclosure 1 in No. 466.

Protocole No. 9.

A VRANJA, le 19 Mai, 1879, la Commission s'est réunie pour la neuvième fois.

Etaient présents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

La séance ayant été ouverte, le Protocole No. 8 est lu et adopté.

M. le Président donne lecture d'une lettre officielle à lui adressée par son Excellence Ghazi Osman Pacha, Ministre de la Guerre, par laquelle M. le Commissaire Ottoman Nalin Pacha est autorisé à procéder à la délimitation de la partie de la frontière touchant à la Bulgarie.

M. le Commissaire Serbe déclare qu'il est autorisé par son Gouvernement à retirer officiellement l'expression de protestation employée l'an dernier par M. le Colonel Milutine Yovanovits, expression dont il est fait mention dans les Protocoles Nos. 5, 6, et 7.

Les originaux des croquis des travaux de délimitation exécutés l'an dernier sont soumis à la Commission. Ces croquis sont (1) le travail fait par les topographes Russes et Serbes, et (2) un travail de compilation mis à jour par M. le Lieutenant Ross. La Commission est unanime d'accepter ce dernier croquis.

M. le Capitaine Anderson présente le cahier dit de spécification, indiquant, en plusieurs colonnes, la position relative des poteaux, accompagnée de leur relèvement. Ce travail consciencieux est accepté par la Commission, qui décide qu'il sera traduit en langue Française et imprimé.

M. le Commissaire de Russie demande que les travaux exécutés par les topographes Russes soient dorénavant à une échelle de $\frac{1}{21000}$ au lieu de $\frac{1}{42000}$. Cette échelle facilitera les travaux des topographes, et il sera plus tard aisé de la ramener à une échelle moindre par la photographie. Cette demande est acceptée.

Sur la proposition de *M. le Capitaine Anderson*, la Commission décide qu'il sera

établi une Sous-Commission dite de travaux topographes. Cette Sous-Commission sera chargée de la surveillance des dits travaux, dont elle aura la responsabilité. Il est, en outre, décidé que les membres de la Sous-Commission Topographique seront:—M. le Colonel Kaulbars et M. le Capitaine Anderson; auxquels seront adjoints MM. Petrovich, Abdul Hamid Bey, et Ross.

Une deuxième proposition, faite en commun par *MM. le Colonel Kaulbars* et *Colonel Anderson*. Elle consiste en l'exécution d'une série de feuilles de croquis, qui seraient successivement signées par MM. les Commissaires. La Commission considérant que cette façon de procéder est, en effet, préférable à un seul et vaste croquis, et qu'elle est en outre de nature d'accélérer les travaux, accepte la proposition.

M. le Général Yahya Pacha demande qu'il soit indiqué par la Commission les points les plus importants de la frontière, afin qu'il soit ultérieurement placé en ces points des bornes en pierre numérotées. Cette demande s'étendrait non-seulement aux travaux à exécuter, mais encore à ceux qui l'ont déjà été; il est d'ailleurs entendu que les dits bornes seraient placés par les soins des Gouvernements limitrophes. Cette demande est acceptée, et la désignation des lieux où seront les bornes est laissée aux soins de la Sous-Commission Topographique.

La question du départ étant ensuite discutée, la Commission, après avoir constaté que tous les préparatifs seront terminés le lendemain, 20 Mai, dans la journée, décide que le départ de Vranja aura lieu le Mercredi, 21 courant. La Commission se rendra ce jour-là au village de Barbarouchinze pour de là reprendre ses travaux.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Vranja, les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) VON ALTEN.
BILIMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
A. KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVICH.
YAHYA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 466.

Protocole No. 10.

AU village de Toplidol, le Samedi, 24 Mai, la Commission s'est réunie pour la dixième fois.

Etaient présents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

La séance étant ouverte, *le Président* fait savoir à MM. les Commissaires que le but de leur réunion est la communication d'un télégramme de son Excellence le Vali de Kossovo à M. le Commissaire Ottoman. Le dit télégramme, dont lecture est faite par M. le Président, mentionne quelques difficultés qui se seraient élevées à la frontière Turco-Serbe, entre les habitants de la Serbie et ceux du district de Novi-Bazar (Voir Annexe No. 1).

MM. les Commissaires ayant agité la question de savoir s'il convenait de télégraphier à ce sujet à son Excellence M. Ristich, qui a recommandé au Président de s'adresser directement à lui pour tout ce qui concerne la Commission, *M. le Commissaire de Russie* a aussitôt demandé qu'il fut dressé un Protocole de la présente séance.

Il a été ensuite passé aux voix afin de décider si un télégramme adressé à son Excellence M. Ristich, dans le but de lui faire connaître l'incident survenu à la frontière, comportait une question de principe ou de forme. La Commission consultée, a décidé à la majorité que c'était une question de forme. Seuls *MM. les Commissaires de Russie* et de *Serbie* ont maintenu qu'il s'agissait d'une question de principe.

Passant à la rédaction du télégramme, ceux de MM. les Commissaires qui avaient accepté la question de forme ont préalablement déclaré que leur intention n'est en aucune façon de s'ingérer dans les affaires intérieures des Gouvernements Ottoman et Serbe; ce en quoi ils reconnaissent n'être nullement compétents. Leur but unique est d'obtenir, par moyen le plus pratique et le plus prompt, la tranquillité d'une frontière où il leur importe de pouvoir exécuter leurs travaux. C'est pour atteindre ce but que les mêmes Commissaires ont été d'avis d'adresser aussi par le télégraphe à son

Excellence le Vali de Kossovo (voir les deux télégrammes aux Annexes Nos. 2 et 3).

La transmission des deux dits télégrammes n'a pas été acceptée ni par M. le Commissaire de Russie ni par celui de Serbie, qui ont tous les deux exposé leur opinion par écrit dans les Annexes Nos. 4 et 5, jointes au présent Protocole.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Toplidol, les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) V. ALTEN.
BILIMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
A. KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVICH.
YAHYA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 466.

Protocole No. 11.

AU village de Klissura, le Lundi, 26 Mai, 1879, la Commission s'est réunie pour l'onzième fois.

Etaient présents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

La séance étant ouverte, *M. le Commissaire de Russie* présente à la Commission un croquis d'une partie de la frontière levé par les topographes Russes à l'échelle de 1/42000. M. le Colonel Kaulbars donne également connaissance de la proposition suivante faite par M. le Général Ernefeld. Quatre topographes Russes, prêtés à la Commission pour le temps de ses travaux et placés sous sa dépendance, seraient dirigés vers la frontière Turco-Serbe pour en faire le levé. L'un d'eux partirait de la Polyanitza, l'autre du Kamilug, et les deux restants s'étant réunis à Mestiza, à peu près au milieu de la frontière, partiraient dans des directions opposées, de façon à marcher chacun à la rencontre des deux premiers. Il demeurerait entendu que les topographes Russes seraient dûment escortés, et trouveraient sécurité dans l'appui à eux donné par les deux Gouvernements limitrophes. Enfin, la largeur de la bande du terrain à lever serait déterminée par les soins de la Sous-Commission Topographique.

Cette proposition agréée avec reconnaissance par MM. les Commissaires, ne peut, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, être acceptée par *M. le Commissaire Ottoman*. Le Général Yahya Pacha doit se borner pour le moment à transmettre à la Sublime Porte le vœu de la Commission.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Klissura, les jour, mois, et an que dessus.

(Signé) V. ALTEN.
BILIMEK.
G. AUBARET.
S. ANDERSON.
A. VELINI.
A. KAULBARS.
ZDRAVKOVICH.
YAHYA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 466.

Notes on the 12th Meeting.

A MEETING of the Servian Boundary Commission was held at Tru on the 30th May, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

1. *The President* informed the meeting that M. Ristich had written to him, to say that a surgeon would be attached to the Commission, according to the wish expressed a short time ago. A letter of thanks was adopted.

2. The President read a letter he had received from M. Lemoyne, the President of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, which was as follows:—

"M. le Président, "*Constantinople, le* 10 *Mai*, 1879.

"Dans le courant du mois d'Octobre 1878, vous avez, au nom de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie, offert à la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie de vous charger de la fixation de la frontière commune à la Serbie et à la Bulgarie. La Commission de la Bulgarie pensa que l'acceptation de cet offre ne soulèverait aucune difficulté, et elle vous répondit dans ce sens. Toutefois le Commissaire Anglais, ayant fait observer que d'après les instructions qui lui avaient été remises par son Gouvernement, le tracé de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare devait, comme formalité, être approuvé par la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie, il fut résolu que chaque Commissaire, en référerait à son Gouvernement, et la question fut laissée en suspens jusqu'au 21 Avril, 1879, où elle fut de nouveau agitée.

"Après une courte discussion la Commisssion adopte à l'unanimité la résolution suivante, en exécution de laquelle j'ai l'honneur de vous écrire:—

"'Pour se conformer aux stipulations de l'Article II du Traité de Berlin, la Commission Européenne de Délimitation de la Bulgarie doit, nonobstant la décision prise par elle le 21 Octobre, 1878, de se dessaisir entre les mains de la Commission de Serbie du travail effectif de la délimitation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare, insérer dans l'instrument diplomatique réglant les limites de la Principauté de Bulgarie le tracé de la susdite frontière Serbo-Bulgare; il lui incombe également le soin de soumettre ledit tracé à l'approbation des Puissances.

"'La Commission décide qu'elle s'abstiendra de contrôler l'œuvre de la Commission de Serbie, et qu'en incorporant cette œuvre dans son propre travail elle en laissera la responsabilité à ses auteurs.

"'Communication de la présente Résolution sera faite au Président de la Commission de Serbie.'

"Je dois également porter à votre connaissance, M. le Président, que la Commission de la Délimitation de la Bulgarie, invitée par plusieurs des Puissances co-signataires à terminer ses travaux s'il est possible vers le 1/13 Juillet, 1879, quittera Constantinople Lundi, 12 courant, et qu'elle y sera de retour vers le 10 Juillet, si elle se conforme à l'itinéraire qu'elle a arrêtée. Pour accomplir sa tâche la Commission devra, avant de se séparer, rédiger l'acte diplomatique réglant les limites de la Bulgarie, y compris la frontière Serbo-Bulgare. Elle aurait donc besoin, pour satisfaire à la demande des Puissances, d'avoir alors entre ses mains le travail qu'elle doit enregistrer, et elle m'a chargé, M. le Président, de vous manifester ce désir."

"Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) "J. C. LEMOYNE,

"*Président de la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie.*"

The President pointed out the difference which existed between the telegram sent to him last year, in October, by the Bulgarian Commission and the present letter; and he was of opinion that a resolution taken, which affected the Servian Commission, on the 21st April, 1879, should have been communicated to the latter before the 10th May.

The German Commissioner also regretted this delay. He saw, however, no difficulty in complying with the condition expressed in this letter.

The Italian Commissioner agreed with Major von Alten.

The Austrian Commissioner read his instructions relating to this subject, by which it appeared that the arrangement of sending the work on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier to the Bulgarian Commission had been concurred in by the British, French, and Italian Governments.

The British Commissioner informed the meeting that his instructions were already known to his colleagues, as the telegram in which they were contained was read at the meeting held at Nisch on the 22nd October, 1878, and were embodied in the first Protocol. He read this portion of the Protocol, expressed his readiness to continue the work, but explained that under those conditions alone was he empowered to act on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier.

The Turkish Commissioner said that he had instructions which enabled him to carry out the delimitation under discussion without reference to the Bulgarian Commissioner.

The Russian Commissioner, while expressing himself in a like sense, declared that he was willing that the conditions in the letter just read should be complied with as a matter purely of form.

During the discussion two propositions were moved:—1st. Whether the delimitation should be continued; and, 2ndly. What answer should be sent to M. Lemoyne.

The first was agreed to in the affirmative. To the second a letter was drawn up, which, while expressing a regret that the resolution of the Bulgarian Commission, different from last year's telegram, should have been delayed so long, notified that the Servian Commission would send to the Bulgarian Commission a duplicate of the work performed on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier.

3. The last question settled was that which referred to the commencement of the work on the Turco-Servian frontier, after the Servo-Bulgarian side was finished. It was arranged that the Commission should go to Vranja first, and proceed northwards, from Crni-Kamen (Poljanica Planina, near the Karpina Planina).

Inclosure 5 in No. 466.

Notes on the 13th Meeting.

A MEETING of the Servian Boundary Commission was held at Segusa, 6th June, 1879.

All the Commissioners were present.

The question raised was where the point was to be fixed from which the 1,000 metres—mentioned in the Treaty of Berlin, north-west of Segusa—should be measured.

It was apparent to the Commission that the village of Sagusa was not exactly on the road from Sophia to Pirot, as shown on the Austrian Staff Map, but some little way to the north-west of it, in a valley. The only part on the road consisted of two or three hans (or small taverns). It was also seen that there was a mill, which marked the other extremity of the village some 700 metres north-west of the hans.

It was decided by the Commission that a spot intermediate along the road, between the hans and the mill (or 325 metres from the hans) should be selected, from which to measure the 1,000 metres.

Accordingly, a measurement was made along the Sophia-Pirot road of 1,325 metres from the hans; and the point found by this means adopted as the one at which the new frontier should cut the road.

Arrived at this point, a discussion arose as to how the line of frontier towards Stol should be traced. All the Commissioners decided that it should follow the natural features as nearly as possible, in the direct line between the two places, which left the village of Grindol to Bulgaria. The Servian Commissioner was alone of opinion that this village should be left to Servia, in order to comply with the Treaty of Berlin.

Inclosure 6 in No. 466.

Notes on a Meeting held at Slavinia on the 13th June, 1879.

ALL the Commissioners were present.

1. The question which occupied first the attention of the Commission was that relating to the position of Mount Radocina in the Kodja Balkans.

Several members of the Commission had occupied several days in making reconnaissances in search of this point, and at last, after difficulty, a spot was found called "Radocina" by the peasants, quite close to Semikos, almost in the village, and in a valley. If a straight line were drawn from the Vidlic Planina to this Radocina, it would leave the greater part of Semikos to Servia; and, besides, its position did not answer to the Treaty of Berlin, because it was neither a Mount, nor in the Kodja Balkans.

This place being, therefore, inadmissible, the *Italian Commissioner* proposed that the position in the Treaty-Map of Radocina should be obtained by measurement, consistent to its being a height, and in the Kodja Balkans.

All the Commissioners agreed to this, with the exception of the *Servian Commissioner*, who moved as amendments two propositions:—(1st) That each Commissioner should refer to their respective Governments for instructions on this point; and (2ndly) That the line from Vidlic Planina to Radocina should be that one which bisects the angle formed by the lines drawn from Vidlic Planina to the point proposed by Major Velini, and from the Vidlic to the Radocina near Semikos, indicated to the reconnaissance party of the Commission by the peasants; where this bisector cuts the general chain of the Kodja Balkans Radocina should be considered to be.

To the first proposition the Commission answered unanimously in the negative, it being considered by them that it was their duty to decide such questions as the one under discussion, on the spot. The second proposition was also rejected, it being pointed out that it was founded on no principle at all. The *Servian Commissioner*, in formulating this proposition, had even adopted as one point on which he based it, a spot measured by Major Velini, but which he, Colonel Zdravkovich, had rejected as against the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin; and he had taken, as the other point, a place which was manifestly inadmissible. Moreover, the line which he proposed in this motion would cut the chain of the Kodja Balkans near Kom, thus turning Radocina too far in a south-easterly direction, and giving Servia a more extended country than was contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin.

Major Velini's proposition was adopted and the point fixed, the Servian Commissioner declaring that he could not accede to it without exceeding his instructions.

2. The Commission agreed that, in order to carry out the Treaty of Berlin, a straight line should be adopted in principle, as the new frontier between Vidlic Planina and the point fixed by the Commission in Major Velini's proposition.

3. *The German Commissioner* wished to know, as the frontier from the point Radocina, now adopted, to Smiljevo Cuka followed the well-defined crests of the Balkans—where there could be no doubt of its trace—whether the new frontier might be considered finished. The *Russian* and *Servian Commissioners* both were of opinion that the ground should be verified, especially where the passes crossed, and in this opinion all concurred with the exception of the *President*, who, as French Commissioner, thought that this proceeding was unnecessary.

It was, however, agreed that the work should not be considered finished until the whole boundary up to Smiljevo Cuka was gone over.

No. 467.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 10.) *Servian Boundary Commission, in Camp, Slavinia, 20 miles east of Pirot, June 15, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9, and the notes of the meeting of 30th May therein enclosed, I have the honour to inform your lordship that the Bulgarian Commission, in their letter dated 10th May, addressed to the President of this Commission, having expressed their readiness to accept the work of the Servian Commission on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, if sent to them, the Servian Commission have agreed to do so, by sending a duplicate of their work on that frontier to the Bulgarian Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 468.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 11.) *Servian Boundary Commission, in Camp, Slavinia, 20 miles east of Pirot, June 15, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9, and the notes of the meetings of the 6th and 13th June therein enclosed, I beg to submit the following report on some points which have arisen in the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier between the Stol and Mount Radocina, on the chain of the Kodja Balkan.

1. The frontier has been marked along the watershed between the Upper Sukowa and the Morava, as specified in Article XXXV of the Berlin Treaty, but it was found impossible to reach the Stol without leaving the watershed, the Stol being incorrectly marked on the Austrian Staff Map, and situated west of the watershed. Under these circumstances the Commission have traced the frontier to the point where the watershed approaches nearest to the Stol.

2. The Commission agreed that the frontier from the Stol to the intersection of the Sophia and Pirot road should follow natural features, approaching as nearly as possible to the direct line between the terminal points. In tracing this portion of the frontier it was found that the village of Goindol fell to Bulgaria. The Servian Commissioner

was alone of opinion that Goindol should be assigned to Servia, in consequence of being so shown on the Treaty Map. On examining the ground, it was found that the position of this village was incorrectly marked on the map, and all the other Commissioners were of opinion that the line of frontier could not be traced so as to give this village to Servia without making a detour decidedly unfavourable to Bulgaria, Servia having already gained the villages of Cherevdel and Planinitza in this district by the adoption of a line following the natural features in lieu of a rigidly straight line.

3. From the intersection of the Sophia and Pirot road the frontier has been traced in a straight line to the Vidlic Planina.

4. From the Vidlic Planina the frontier determined by the Treaty passes direct to Mount Radocina on the chain of the Kodza Balkan. The Commission after three days' search have failed to find on the ground the point answering to the name and description of Mount Radocina, though a spot called Radocina was found in the low ground close to Senakos. This point being inadmissible, being neither a mount nor on the chain of the Kodza Balkan, the Commissioners agreed (the Servian Commissioner alone dissenting) to establish the point Mount Radocina by measurement from the data given on the Treaty Map, and by the wording of the Treaty. The point so obtained has now been marked on the ground, and a direct line traced from that point to the Vidlic Planina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 469.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord,

Servian Boundary Commission, in Camp, Slavinia, 20 miles east of Pirot, June 15, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9, with copy of Protocol No. 9, therein inclosed, and referring to Major Wilson's despatch No. 24, of the 30th November, 1878, I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that the Servian Commissioner has been authorized by his Government to withdraw officially the expression of "Protestation" employed last year by Colonel Yovanovitz, the late Servian Commissioner, mention of which was made in Protocols Nos. 5, 6, and 7.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 470.

Captain Anderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord,

Servian Boundary Commission, in Camp, Slavinia, 20 miles east of Pirot, June 15, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Servian authorities have already evacuated Tru and Bresnick. I am not certain whether they have left Caribrod, where there is a custom-house, which may account for any delay in terminating the Servian Government at that place.

I am informed that the Russian authorities have temporarily assumed the government at Tru, and, I believe, at Bresnick also, instead of the Bulgarian officials. This may be due to the fact the Bulgarian authorities are not yet ready to assume the government in this locality, or perhaps to the desire, on the part of the Russians, to organize the Government before handing it over to the Bulgarian Principality.

I have been informed that a Russian officer arrived in Tru, as Governor, very shortly after the departure of the Boundary Commission, escorted by a battalion, but I have not heard of any serious difficulty having arisen in consequence of this change.

Everything seems to be quiet in this quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 471.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord,

Adrianople, June 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, inclosures of "Tracings of portions of Southern Frontier of Eastern Roumelia, where there arose divergence of opinion as to the delimitation of the frontier, and also of the portion embracing the departure from the Black Sea." These tracings were not prepared in time to send as inclosures to my despatch No. 37 of the 13th instant.

The delimitation of the frontier from the Black Sea to the River Gundja took longer than I anticipated; but the roads by which the Commission had to travel are of a nature to preclude the possibility of long marches, especially as there was much bad weather—further, the sheets of Russian large-scale maps, which had been promised, were not forthcoming where two possible solutions of frontier existed.

Sheets of the map which were placed at the disposal of the Commission were of great assistance, and, on verification, were found perfectly reliable.

On the 27th May Colonel Philippoff, the Russian Delegate, left Kara Evren for Constantinople before the line of frontier in this locality had been decided on, and is expected to rejoin the Commission to-morrow, the 18th instant, at Mustafa-Pasha. His assistant, Lieutenant-Colonel Commenew, who had been left with full powers, is also absent, having started from Adrianople for Constantinople on the 13th instant. This latter officer is also expected to rejoin to-morrow.

Subject to the return of one or other of the Russian Representatives, the Commission will recommence its labours on the 19th instant.

My colleagues are of opinion that it will be the middle of August before we can complete our work at Mount Cadir Tepe, the most western point of the boundary.

I am most anxious that our labours be finished at an early date, but it is difficult to give an absolute opinion as to their exact duration, as we have no large-scale maps, and no reliable information can be obtained here as to the nature of the roads which traverse the Kara Balkan and Rhodope ranges.

I have the honour to inclose a brief Memorandum of the country from the neighbourhood of Kara Evren to the River Gundja, and which is in continuation of the Memorandum forming inclosure to my despatch No. 36 of the 27th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major, 93rd Highlanders.*

Inclosure in No. 471.

Memorandum on Country bordering the Southern Frontier of Eastern Roumelia between Kara Evren and the River Tundja.

The head of the valley of the Kazanlik is thickly wooded, and intersected by numerous small streams forming affluents of the Kazanlik. The valley can only be traversed by the few existing tracks, the principal of which leads towards the north to the Bulgarian village of Alatino, and thence to Bourgas.

To the north of the watershed which forms the frontier lies the valley of the Faki. This valley is tolerably open and under cultivation, and from several high points on the frontier the lagoons near Bourgas and the range of hills to the south-east of that port can be seen.

The principal road south from Kara-Evren leads to Golk Tepe, passing through the Turkish village of Erzueskioi, which latter has been completely destroyed, near to the town of Stoilovo. I was informed that the principal stream is bridged.

The road is in itself, however, similar to all others in this part of the country, a track passing through dense forest lands, and crossing valleys and spurs of the principal ranges at very heavy gradients.

After leaving Kara-Evren, the frontier maintains the watershed line in a south-westerly direction, passing between the two Turkish villages of Belevren and Alatli. These were not deserted during the war, and the inhabitants do not appear to have suffered. The Turkish village Tekendjio was deserted, and is now inhabited by Bulgarians. The water-parting is maintained as frontier to a point Kiseldikbair, about three and a-half miles from the river Tundja, and about one and a-half to the north-west of the village of Haussubevli and Teke, both Turkish villages partially destroyed,

and now totally deserted. The Turkish villages of Uyakioj, Kaibilar, and Malkoclier, the two former to north of the frontier, and the latter to the south, were not deserted during the war, and the inhabitants appear fairly prosperous. The Bulgarian villages south of and in vicinity of the frontier are mostly deserted, but houses intact, and corn and crops left standing. In a few cases the churches have been destroyed.

The Bulgarian villages north of the frontier are inhabited, and a few Cossacks quartered in each. The road along the water-parting is fairly good as far as the village of Buyuk Derbend, and the country more open than between Kara-Evren and the Black Sea. The valley of the Tundja is thickly wooded.

A tolerable road crosses the frontier close to Kaibilar, and which leads from Kirk Kilissi to Yamboli. The road from Bujuk Derbend to Adrianople, which I reported last year as being good for this country, is gradually becoming a mere track, the few villages on the road, Hanliyenidje, Akbounar, &c., deserted, and the arable land, which is extensive, appears as if it were being allowed to run to waste.

(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*, 93*rd Highlanders.*

Adrianople, June 17, 1879.

No. 472.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 3.) *Philippopolis, June* 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of an Appendix to Protocol No. 42, which has just been printed, and which relates to the so-called "Reserve Fund of the Sandjak of Philippopolis," held by the Russian military authorities on the $\frac{5}{17}$th February last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 472.

Annexe au Protocole No. 42.

Etat de la Caisse Réservée du Sandjak de Philippopoli.

PREMIÈRE LISTE.—Montant de la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli au $\frac{5}{17}$ Février, 1879.

	Or.	Papier.
	Rbl. k.	Rbl. k.
1. Revenus du Sandjak d'Andrinople	34,155 65	7,148 93
2. Revenus des districts du Gouvernement de Slivno qui restent en dehors de la Roumélie Orientale selon le Traité de Berlin	40,933 57	2,350 20
3. Pour secours :—		
(*a.*) Aux émigrés Grecs et Bulgares	33,396 00	..
(*b.*) Pour les habitants de Karlovo, Kalofer, Sopot, &c.	8,750 00	..
4. Pour la construction du pont sur la Maritza à Philippopoli	21,000 21	..
5. Pour les écoles de Peroutchitza, Batak, &c.	500 00	..
6. Pour l'entretien de l'école réale de Philippopoli	317 72½	..
7. Pour frais d'équipement des gendarmes	301 50	..
8. Pour les médecins dans la milice de Philippopoli	267 25½	..
9. Pour le même but dans le Gouvernement de Slivno	562 50	..
	140,254 44	9,499 13
10. Sommes provenant des revenus de Tirnovo et de Sistovo et laissées par le Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie pour l'entretien de la milice Bulgare qui alors faisait un avec la milice Roumélienne	33,360 80½	46,041 90½
	173,614 24½	55,541 03½

	Rbl. k.
Total (roubles en or et en papier)	229,155 27½

DEUXIÈME LISTE.—Montant des sommes qui, d'après la lettre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général du 5 Février, peuvent être versées au Comité des Finances litre de dépôt.

	Or.
	Rbl. k.
1. Pour secours :—	
(*a.*) Aux émigrés Grecs et Bulgares	33,396 00
(*b.*) Aux habitants de Karlovo, Kalofer, Sopot, &c.	8,750 00
2. Pour la construction du pont sur la Maritza à Philippopoli	21,000 21
3. Pour les écoles de Peroutchitza, Batak, &c.	500 00
4. Pour l'entretien de l'école réale de Philippopoli	317 72½
5. Pour les frais d'équipement des gendarmes	301 50
6. Pour l'entretien des médecins dans la milice de Philippopoli	267 25½
7. Pour le même but dans le Gouvernement de Slivno	562 50
Total	65,155 19

TROISIÈME LISTE.—Montant des sommes qui, ne provenant pas des districts de la Roumélie Orientale, restent à la disposition de l'autorité locale Russe.

	Or.	Papier.
	Rbl. k.	Rbl. k.
1. Sommes provenant du Sandjak d'Andrinople	34,155 65	7,148 93
2. Sommes provenant des districts du Gouvernement de Slivno qui ne font pas partie de la Roumélie Orientale d'après le Traité de Berlin ..	40,933 57	2,350 20
3. Sommes provenant des revenus de Tirnovo et de Sistovo et laissées par le Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie pour l'entretien de la milice Bulgare qui était unie alors à la milice Roumélienne	33,360 80½	46,041 90½
	108,450 02½	55,541 03½

	Rbl. k.
3e liste total (roubles or et papier)	164,000 96
2e liste total (roubles or et papier)	65,155 19
Total	229,155 25

Le Chef de la Chancellerie du Gouverneur-Général
de la Roumélie Orientale,
(Signé) P. NEKLUDOFF.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{25}{13}$ *Février*, 1879.

No. 473.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, June* 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Maritza" commenting on the practical bearing of Articles 21 and 22 of the Organic Statute.

It states that, except in the district of Bourgas, the Bulgarian population has an overwhelming majority in respect to the distribution of offices and the use of the Bulgarian language.

The local Greek organ denies, however, in an article of which I likewise beg to inclose a copy, the correctness of the above statements and conclusions, and urges that, in any case, the mixed character of the population of Eastern Roumelia should be represented in the Governor-General's Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 473.

Extract from the "Maritza" of June $\frac{1}{13}$, 1879.

"ARTICLE 21. Il sera fait une juste distribution des emplois publics, en tenant compte pour les choix à faire de la majorité des habitants des différentes circonscriptions."—(Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.)

Dans les circonscriptions départementales les Bulgares ont partout l'écrasante majorité vis-à-vis de toutes les minorités réunies, sauf dans le département de Bourgas, où Turcs et Grecs réunis approchent de la majorité Bulgare.

Dans les circonscriptions cantonales, les Bulgares ont partout l'écrasante majorité, sauf dans les cantons de Kavakli et d'Akhylo-Messembria.

"Art. 22. . . . . Les autorités administratives et judiciaires . . . . . se servent de la langue de la population qui est en majorité relative dans leurs circonscriptions respectives, à moins qu'il n'y existe une minorité égale pour le moins à la moitié de cette majorité, auquel cas la langue de cette minorité est employée, concurremment avec celle de la majorité."—(Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.)

Pour les circonscriptions départementales il y aura tout au plus dans celle de Bourgas lieu d'employer le Grec concurremment avec le Bulgare. Tout Bulgare tant soit peu instruit connaît les trois langues; tout Grec Rouméliote si instruit qu'il soit ignore généralement la langue du pays.

Inclosure 2 in No. 473.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of June $\frac{2}{14}$, 1879.

D'APRÈS la "Maritza," tout est rose. La Loi Organique est appliquée suivant l'esprit et la lettre. La justice de Salomon règne d'un bout à l'autre de la province. Tout le monde est aux anges, même notre confrère Bulgare qui a autrefois tant crié contre la Commission Internationale. Le Directoire lui-même, ignorant encore s'il sera confirmé par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ne se fait aucun scrupule de choisir déjà les divers employés pour le Gouvernement et pour le service du pays. Il va sans dire que ces fonctionnaires sont extrêmement compétents et douées de qualités tellement éminentes que nous ne savons nullement comment ils ont pu faire pour devenir, en un jour et sans exception aucune, de si grands spécialistes. Ainsi, après l'élection des Préfets, le Directoire a élu les Juges de Paix de vingt-huit cantons, et l'on va nommer les Conseillers de Préfecture, si toutefois ces nominations ne sont pas déjà faites. Tout cela se réalise avec une rapidité étourdissante et une impartialité à toute épreuve, proportionnellement à la population et surtout d'après les Tableaux statistiques qui se fabriquent avec tant de zèle patriotique dans les bureaux de notre confrère.

D'après leurs exposés statisques la population Bulgare de cette province s'élève à 500,000; les Turcs, à 70,000, et les Grecs à 35,000. Les sources auxquelles notre confrère puise ses inspirations lui ont sans doute conseillé de prendre ces nombres pour les jeter à la figure des syllogues Grecs qui, à la veille de la réunion du Congrès de Berlin, se sont, pour ainsi dire, donné le mot, pour déclarer dans leurs mémoires que ce pays est une terre Hellénique.

Dans leur zèle précipité pour représenter la population Grecque comme un rien, les inspirateurs de la statistique de notre confrère et leurs adeptes écartent soigneusement l'histoire et prouvent ainsi qu'ils sont loin de savoir ce qu'ils veulent dire.

Les syllogues ne pouvaient appeler ce pays, c'est-à-dire la Roumélie Orientale, un pays Grec par le fait qu'avant la réunion du Congrès il n'existait point de Roumélie Orientale—que nous sachions du moins. Ils ont enfin rappelé à l'Europe que la population Grecque en Thrace est comparativement supérieure à toutes les autres, c'est-à-dire que la Thrace est, tant sur le point de vue historique que national, un pays purement Grec, et où les Bulgares se trouvent sur un sol étranger, &c.; qu'il y a 475 écoles Grecques dans lesquelles 10,750 élèves reçoivent leur éducation, et que pour la subvention de ces établissements il est dépensé annuellement la somme énorme de 1,500,000 fr. Ces faits sont établis par nos syllogues.

Nous ne pensons pas que la "Maritza" puisse démentir cette statistique; et si elle s'y essaye, ce ne sera pas, dans tous les cas, au moyen des renseignements erronés dont elle a fait jusqu'ici étalage et basés sur toute autre chose que sur la précision scientifique.

Il ne nous sera pas difficile de démontrer que la "Maritza" emploie une nouvelle manière de faire la statisque, et qui certes n'a rien de bien ingénieux. Le 6 Février de la présente année notre confrère, dans son 55e numéro, apprenait au public, d'après un calcul infaillible, que le nombre exact des Grecs habitant la Roumélie Orientale ne s'élevait, au maximum, à guère plus de 25,000. Maintenant, comment se fait-il que dans quatre mois non encore révolus, à moins toutefois d'un miracle, que ces 25,000 aient atteint le chiffre de 35,000? Un si pyramidal accroissement n'a jamais figuré dans les annales de la propagation du genre humain. Mais il paraît que ce n'est pas chose extraordinaire pour les statisticiens fantaisistes de l'école de notre confrère Bulgare.

Le but pour lequel ces débauches ethnographiques ont été écrites n'est un mystère pour personne. Ceux qui poursuivent avec acharnement la transformation de la Roumélie Orientale jusqu'au point de vouloir en faire un second Etat Bulgare; ceux qui violent l'esprit de la Loi Organique et bafouent le Traité de Berlin; ceux qui, comme nous l'avons déjà dit dans notre précédent numéro, cherchent à ressusciter les conditions du Traité de San Stéfano, rejetées par le concert Européen, sont précisément les personnes qui s'efforcent—elles ont un sérieux intérêt à agir ainsi—d'amoindrir les populations non-Bulgares et de représenter leur existence comme idéale et fantaisiste. On leur pardonnerait volontiers si, dans leurs agissements, elles portaient un peu plus de délicatesse et de scrupule.

Bien au contraire, dans leur extrême empressement elles oublient leurs premières assertions, se contredisent ou se démentent, et donnent ainsi le droit à ceux qui respectent la vérité et la justice de n'ajouter la moindre créance à leurs paroles.

Tant qu'il n'y aura pas de statistiques régulièrement faites, sans que les populations à dénombrer soient menacées d'être maltraitées dans leurs déclarations, tant qu'un recensement officiel ne sera pas fait en pleine et entière liberté par des organes libres d'attaches avec les Comités Panslavistes, les Grecs auront le droit de faire la sourde oreille aux assertions de la "Maritza" et de soutenir plus énergiquement encore le nombre de 100,000 habitants, donné dans nos précédents numéros. La statistique, telle que les Bulgares l'ont faite, inspire aux Grecs la même hilarité qu'aux Anglais le chant populaire publié, il y a quelques jours, par la "Maritza," et dans lequel Malte est chanté comme étant une île Bulgare.

Emettez toute idée que votre plume rencontrera au fond de l'encrier, dites tout ce qui pourra vous venir au bout de la langue, mais, avant tout, ne vous figurez pas que le monde qui est autour de vous et l'Europe qui vous regarde sont d'une ignorance crasse.

La question principale ne consiste pas à connaître séparément la population de chaque nationalité. L'Europe a admis qu'il existe dans ce pays de grandes minorités, et c'est pour cela qu'elle a reconnu que la Roumélie Orientale est un pays mixte, peuple de Bulgares, de Grecs, et de Turcs. L'Europe entend donc que ces diverses nationalités aient un Gouvernement et une Administration mixtes. Vous avez la majorité, cela est un fait incontestable; mais croyez-vous que cela vous donne le droit d'étouffer les autres nationalités, de leur imposer votre joug, ou encore, de les opprimer comme un cauchemar. Vous vous êtes distribué, comme en famille, les places les plus importantes; vous avez fait comme le fils aîné qui, le père mort, prive de leurs droits ses frères mineurs.

Prétendant que vous avez partout la majorité, vous refusez même jusqu'à un Préfet aux Grecs et aux Turcs, comme si votre population était partout numériquement supérieure. Mais cette prétendue majorité, vous la devez au concours des réfugiés qui, d'après la loi, ne peuvent encore jouir de l'indigénat Rouméliote. Pendant toute la durée de l'occupation vous avez exploité avec plus d'art que de droiture les populations que vous aviez fait émigrer du Vilayet d'Andrinople pour les amener en Roumélie Orientale; vous avez de plus fait expédier au-delà des Balkans les réfugiés Grecs pour les établir entre Tirnovo et Sophia, et vous les avez ainsi contraints à s'identifier, dans leurs luttes, avec les indigènes et mis dans la nécessité de perdre à jamais leur propre nationalité. Quant à ceux qui sont restés en Roumélie Orientale, ils ont été réintégrés dans des localités purement Bulgares et à une distance aussi éloignée de leurs co-nationaux que d'ici aux antipodes.

Vous leur avez envoyé des émissaires pour leur dire que vous les chasseriez, que vous les abandonneriez à la discrétion et au glaive des Turcs, s'ils n'optaient pas pour la nationalité Bulgare.

Maintenant, voici ce que vous avez fait pour les réfugiés Bulgares; vous les avez agglomérés par milliers dans ces localités où la majorité Grecque était stable et écrasante, afin d'augmenter l'élément Bulgare, sûrs d'avance de pouvoir les présenter

ensuite comme indigènes. Et après avoir accompli ces actes, vous venez ensuite nous dire avec la modestie et l'humilité d'un insecte, avec toute l'affabilité et la bouche de Nestor: "Ce n'est point notre faute, si vous n'avez pas droit à avoir un Préfet. C'est celle de l'Article 21 de la Loi Organique que nous devons exécuter à la lettre, et d'après lequel la distribution des emplois publics doit se faire de manière à tenir compte, pour le choix des fonctionnaires, de la majorité des habitants des différentes circonscriptions. Maintenant, que faire, puisque nous avons la majorité de notre côté?"

Soit. Admettons pour un moment les prétentions sans fondement de nos contradicteurs et chantons avec eux et en chœur la majorité Bulgare. Nous leur demanderons pourtant d'après quel Article ils excluent du Directoire les Turcs et les Grecs? Pensent-ils peut-être que l'Article 21 est applicable aussi à ce corps? Une telle interprétation est inadmissible, car de ce que ce même Article détermine que les fonctionnaires publics doivent être nommés en tenant toujours compte de la majorité des différentes circonscriptions, il s'ensuit nécessairement qu'il ne s'agit que des fonctionnaires publics de ces circonscriptions et non pas de la Direction générale du pays entier. Si la Loi Organique exigeait que les Directeurs fussent choisis d'après la majorité ethnographique, on pourrait bien alors se demander comment expliquer la présence au Directoire de membres Européens étrangers?

De deux choses l'une, ou la présence de ces Directeurs est une violation de la loi, ou l'interprétation de l'Article 21, d'après laquelle les Directeurs doivent être pris dans la masse formant la majorité, est mal fondée et absurde; et cette absurdité est d'autant plus éclatante que le Directoire représente directement et particulièrement le Gouverneur-Général pour la nomination duquel le Statut Organique ne mentionne nulle part qu'il doit être élu en tenant compte de la majorité des habitants des différentes circonscriptions.

Comme l'une des principales raisons de l'érection en Etat autonome de la Roumélie Orientale repose sur ce fait qu'elle est habitée par diverses races dont les intérêts doivent jouir en parties égales de la protection que leur assure le régime Gouvernemental, il s'ensuit que les conseillers du Gouverneur-Général ne devraient pas appartenir à une seule race, mais bien à toutes en proportion de la population de chacune d'elles.

En d'autres termes, comme la Roumélie Orientale est un pays mixte, son Gouvernement doit être également mixte et non exclusivement Bulgare, comme celui existe dans la Principauté d'outre-Balkans.

Si les Bulgares d'ici croient, par leur supériorité numérique, avoir le droit de tenir dans leurs mains le sort de cette province, d'écarter les Grecs et les Turcs et de fouler aux pieds les droits de ces derniers, ils ne doivent pas, dans ce cas, dissimuler leurs intentions mais déclarer alors tout bonnement que leur point de mire est d'établir une forme de Gouvernement purement et simplement Bulgare, et partant, une dépendance de la Principauté limitrophe. Mais avant de chercher à réaliser leurs desseins, ils devraient au moins se donner la peine de méditer un peu les paroles suivantes de l'Empereur Alexandre, qu'ils semblent avoir trop vite oubliées: "Toute tentative violente faite contre le Traité de Berlin mettrait en péril l'avenir de la race Bulgare."

No. 474.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 8.) *Philippopolis, June* 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I returned, on the 16th instant, from a journey which I made to some of the towns and villages at the foot of the Balkans, in the company of M. de Kallay, the Austrian Commissioner for the Organization of Eastern Roumelia.

At Carlovo, which we reached on the 12th instant, we were very cordially and hospitably received by the Chef d'Arrondissement, the Mayor and other public functionaries, and by a deputation of Bulgarian Notables. The population greeted us respectfully as we passed through the streets, exhibiting a demeanour very different from that which they had maintained in November last, when Carlovo was visited by Mr. Walpole and the "Times" correspondent.

The topic to which the functionaries and notables frequently reverted was

naturally the massacres of 1877, which, according to their account, had left 830 widows in the town. We were told that the latter maintained themselves for the present, to a great extent, out of the hoardings they had rescued after the massacre of their husbands, who had nearly all left small stores of gold, amounting to 50 and even 100 half-imperials (about 20 fr. each); but that the position of most of the widows would become serious and would demand the attention of the Provincial Government as soon as those resources shall have become exhausted.

The more general topics of conversation I shall have the honour to submit to your Lordship at the end of this Report, because they were common to all the places which we visited.

Out of 300 Turkish families which had formerly resided in Carlovo, only 15 (about 60 persons) had returned. We were assured that they were well treated, but there was evidently no desire to see the Turks return at once in large numbers.

Next morning we reached Kalofer, which is still a heap of ruins. About 600 dwellings, of which a great part are hovels, had been rebuilt. The town formerly consisted of about 3,000 houses. The authorities and Notables received us very warmly, and we had to listen for an hour to their tales of woe. The Notables said they wished to present a Petition asking me to obtain for them a remission of taxes for a certain period, in order to promote the reconstruction of their town. I told them I should certainly do my best to assist them indirectly, but that their proper course was to petition the Governor-General, who would, no doubt, take their condition into due consideration.

M. Schmidt, to whom I have already spoken on this subject, is rightly of opinion that a remission of taxation would constitute a dangerous precedent, and that the best form of State relief would be a subvention or a loan on easy terms; but there will be some difficulty, even in adopting the latter method, before the meeting of the Provincial Assembly.

A deputation from the village of Malko-Selo met us on the road between Kalofer and Kyzanlik, and invited us to stay there; but as we could not spare the time we pushed on to Kyzanlik, after some interesting conversation with the deputation respecting their condition and material prospects, with both of which they appeared to be well satisfied.

At Kyzanlik we were received with the same warmth and distinction. A special messenger having been sent from Carlovo to announce our arrival, a house had been prepared for our accommodation, and on our arrival we were waited upon by the Mayor and other officials, including the Russian officer in command of the local militia.

About one-third of the town is still in ruins, including that part of it which was formerly occupied by the shops and stores of Bulgarian merchants.

In this quarter we saw a large building, which had been restored, for the purpose of holding the ammunition of the local Gymnastic Society, a member of which stood sentry at the door.

Next day we made an excursion to Shipka, and passing through the ruined village, in which ten houses out of 1,200 are being rebuilt, we ascended the Pass as far as Fort St. Nicholas. We found a great number of men at work, under the direction of Russian pioneers, improving the lower part of the road, which has been considerably widened, and made more practicable for carriages.

We were informed that the Russian cavalry stationed in Eastern Roumelia would assemble at Kyzanlik on the $\frac{5}{17}$th July, and evacuate the province by way of the Shipka Pass.

On the 15th June we reached Eski-Zaghra, escorted by two mounted gendarmes. We stayed there some hours, and were hospitably entertained by the Prefect in a house which had formerly belonged to a Turkish Notable, and which was one of the few that had escaped the conflagration of 1877.

Out of 22,000 inhabitants only 9,600 have as yet returned, the number of dwellings occupied being 1,080, out of about 4,000, which had constituted the town of Eski-Zaghra before the late war.

Riding over the ruins we found many human bones, although the town was supposed to have been cleared of such remains.

Bulgarians have occupied 200 of the houses which had previously belonged to Turks, and, as at Carlovo and other places which we visited, the prospect of being called upon to surrender the Turkish houses to their rightful owners was viewed with considerable apprehension.

About thirty Turkish families had returned from Adrianople a few weeks ago, but "finding themselves isolated" had again emigrated.

We were informed that when a census was taken in the autumn of last year the ruined town was found to contain 5,400 widows and children, the number of widows alone being 1,300; and that in the district of Eski-Zaghra the number of women who had been made widows by the massacre of 1877 was 3,800. Last year the decrease of population in this district consequent on the war and its incidents was estimated at 16,000.

From Eski-Zaghra we drove to Tehirpan, a flourishing town with 10,000 inhabitants, in which only a very few Turkish houses had been demolished by Bulgarians. The same cordial hospitality was extended to us by the Sub-Prefect, who did the honours of the house of a Bulgarian Notable in which we were lodged; and escorted by an officer and two men of the gendarmerie, as well as by the Sub-Prefect, who accompanied us for a couple of miles beyond the town, we returned to Philippopolis by way of Papasli, on the railway from Adrianople.

The impression which my Austrian colleague and myself derived from what we had seen and heard on this journey was that the inhabitants of the districts through which we had passed were heartily tired of the recent conflict, and sincerely anxious to enjoy in peace the advantages which had been secured to them under the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute.

Making every allowance for a politic reticence on the subject of union with the Principality of Bulgaria, I do not think that the persons with whom we came in contact were much pre-occupied with it. Whenever the subject was casually mentioned, M. de Kallay and myself recommended undivided attention to the organization of the province, as constituted by the Treaty of Berlin, leaving the future to take care of itself.

Our hearers appeared to display a considerable amount of common sense and moderation in all their views, except as regards the question of the occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops.

Acknowledging the existence of a ground for sentimental objection to such an occupation, I asked them to explain the practical disadvantages which they anticipated in the event of Europe calling upon the Porte to fulfil this condition of the Treaty of Berlin.

The invariable answer was, that the presence of Turkish troops in the Balkans would, as formerly in Servia and Montenegro, promote brigandage, which would render their trading communications with the neighbouring Principality unsafe, and that rather than submit to such a danger they would either cross over into Bulgaria, or resist the occupation by force of arms. In reply to the latter threat, I thought it best to tell them very plainly, while defending the character of the regular Ottoman army, that neither their militia and gymnasts, nor any supplies of money they might receive from Panslavist Committees, would deter the Porte from carrying out all the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin when called upon to do so.

At the same time, M. de Kallay and myself endeavoured to quiet the fears which they expressed by stating, as our personal opinion, that an immediate occupation was not in contemplation, and that probably much would depend upon the attitude of the Bulgarian population, both towards their fellow-subjects and the Government that has been established under the Organic Statute.

Several persons with whom I conversed appeared to understand that the occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops was in a great measure intended to serve as a check on an apprehended encroachment by Russia, facilitated by the gratitude which that Power expected in return for the sacrifices she had made in the cause of liberation.

They assured me, however, that their gratitude did not surpass the limit which was natural and appropriate under the circumstances which had called them into political existence; and I am bound to add, as my personal opinion, founded on a long experience of the Russian Government and people, that it would be most unnatural on the part of the Bulgarians, both of the Principality and of Eastern Roumelia, to desire sincerely their absorption by Russia.

Setting aside the condition of the aristocracy and large landed gentry of Russia —classes which do not exist in this province—I am of opinion that the remaining corresponding classes of Eastern Roumelia are considerably superior to those of Russia as regards their intellectual and material development. It appears to me that there is more solidity of character, more industry, and certainly more sobriety among Bulgarians than among Russians. Education is far more widespread, and conducted

on a sounder basis than in Russia, where the only prominent result has hitherto been the dissemination of crude doctrines aiming at the dissolution of all modern social laws and institutions.

When opportunities have occurred, I have thought it right to point out the dangers that would be incurred in this respect by a continued close intimacy with the classes in Russia by whom in reality the war with Turkey was produced for their own objects; and I shall be much mistaken in my appreciation of the character of all the Slav brethren of Russia if the Bulgarians fail, under good local government, to develop, and ultimately to manifest openly, their contempt for Russian character and civilization, and their desire to enjoy an independent political existence.

The question of the return of Turkish refugees was broached by us on several occasions. Some apparently well-grounded fears were expressed by the functionaries and Notables whom we met as to the possible effect of a sudden, extensive, and indiscriminating repatriation of Turkish refugees, particularly in places which had suffered from massacres.

The wounds are yet so fresh, and the recollection of the horrors of 1877 still so vivid, that it appears very desirable to proceed with judgment and caution in the restoration of Turks to homes situated, for instance, at Carlovo, Kalofer, Kyzanlik, and Eski-Zaghra.

At those places the Bulgarian women would be sure to see in each Turk who returned to take possession of his land the man who had killed a husband, a child, or some other near relative; while the Bulgarian men who have taken possession of Turkish houses and property would naturally be loth to give them up without such an amount of compensation or pecuniary assistance as the province may not be able to afford.

At the same time, the Turkish refugees cannot admit that the sufferings have all been on the side of the Bulgarians, and they would probably see in many a Bulgarian fellow-townsman or villager a man who had violated a wife or daughter, or slain a Moslem under circumstances of atrocity.

Some of the Notables were of opinion that the Turkish refugees desirous of returning to Roumelia should, as it were, be re-shuffled as regards the places of their future residence—that is to say, that Turkish families connected with one locality should be established in another in which they were not known.

But such a course, while giving rise to much complication in the repatriation of refugees, would also be contrary to the spirit in which this province should in future be governed, and which should be formed on the assumption, as regards Bulgars and Turks, that both races had experienced equal suffering and misery, and were now entitled to equal justice and equal rights.

I was on the whole favourably impressed with the character and bearing of the Bulgarian functionaries. So far as I was able to judge, during comparatively short interviews, they appeared to be zealous, truthful, and anxious to perform their duties conscientiously. A strong and vigilant central Administration may be able to control and prevent the development and application of a bias in favour of their own nationality, which they undoubtedly and naturally possess.

Some of the more thoughtful persons with whom we conversed expressed an apprehension lest the country should not be able to produce at the outset a sufficient number of capable and educated men to fill the many administrative and elective posts that had been created under the Organic Statute. Many of their best men had taken service in Bulgaria, and those who remained would have to acquire their knowledge and experience by a slow and gradual process.

We replied that Europe would not expect them to exhibit immediate and general perfection in the art of self-government, and would be satisfied and proud of its work if the officials of Government and the future elected representatives of the people shall manifest a sincere desire to carry out honestly and impartially the provisions of the Organic Statute, for the bestowal of which we had heard so many expressions of gratitude.

In reply to our questions respecting the prospects of the harvest, we were informed, throughout the district which we traversed, that the crops promised to be very abundant. The roses in the neighbourhood of Kyzanlik had alone, to a considerable extent, failed, owing to the absence of rain. Complaint was made of a very considerable reduction in the number of cattle, attributable partly to theft during the late war, and partly to sales made to the Russian army of occupation. We noticed ploughs, to which an ox and an ass were yoked in contravention of biblical injunctions.

Many complaints were made to us of the insufficiency of the local gendarmerie.

The town of Carlovo, for instance, possessed only seven guardians of the peace, while in the entire district of Tchirpan there were only forty-two gendarmes, of whom only a dozen were allotted to the town and its 10,000 inhabitants. This is a subject which demands immediate attention.

In conclusion, I beg to submit to your Lordship my conviction that much real good may be effected in this province by similar journeys of observation; and it is to be hoped that the Governor-General himself will see the advantage of making a tour after the Russian evacuation, particularly with a view to encourage and reassure the Turkish and Greek populations in the efficacy of his protection.

The superior classes of the Bulgarian population appear to be very amenable to reason, and proud of being visited in their own homes by persons of a class different from that by which they have hitherto been canvassed and agitated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 475.

Consul-General Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, June 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Petition addressed to the Commission by the Elders of the Greek community at Philippopolis, complaining of the neglect of their rights under the Organic Statute, and protesting against the violation of the latter by the almost exclusive appointment of Bulgarians to public offices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 475.

Petition by Greek Elders of Philippopolis.

Messieurs,

DEPUIS l'arrivée de la Commission Européenne dans notre ville, les Grecs de la Roumélie Orientale dont nous avons l'honneur de vous soumettre les sollicitations, attendaient avec anxiété la fin de vos travaux par lesquels ils croyaient que leur existence nationale serait assurée dans cette province. La Commission Européenne, dans sa haute sagesse, ayant jugé nécessaire de sauvegarder les droits des minorités, à doté notre province d'une Loi Organique qui, sanctionnée par Sa Majésté Impériale le Sultan, a été promulguée comme loi fondamentale de la province.

Nous espérions avec raison que depuis l'arrivée de Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général et la promulgation du Statut, il serait mis un terme à l'exclusivisme avec lequel la province a été gouvernée après les derniers événements.

Cependant, dès le premier jour de la promulgation du Statut Organique, un de nos droits les plus sacrés, celui de l'emploi de notre langue, a été violé. Nous avions immédiatement remis une protestation à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, qui s'est empressé de nous tranquilliser en nous assurant que la violation a eu lieu par mégarde et non intentionnellement.

Quelques jours après, il s'est élevé une autre question. Tous les Directeurs, le personnel des Tribunaux, celui de l'Administration et les officiers ont été choisis parmi les habitants appartenant à une seule race, à l'exclusion de toutes les autres. Ces nominations ayant été faites par les autorités Russes qui, à notre avis, n'en avaient nullement le droit, nous n'avons pu les prendre en sérieuse considération.

Mais ayant appris qu'elles allaient être ratifiées par le Gouverneur-Général, nous nous sommes hâtés de lui envoyer une députation qui lui a présenté une protestation, et a verbalement réclamé la juste distribution des emplois publics. Son Excellence a invité la députation à choisir un de ses membres pour se présenter au jour fixé par elle et discuter la question en sa présence, avec son Conseil Privé.

Lundi dernier, en effet, M. le Docteur Vlados, notre mandataire, s'est présenté et n'a trouvé que deux administrateurs; son Excellence le Gouverneur était absent. M. Vlados s'est alors refusé à discuter comme Délégué, mais comme personne privée il est entré en discussion avec ces messieurs et il a pu constater que MM. les

Directeurs interprétant la loi d'une manière toute différente et même erronée, ont exclusivement réservé toutes les hautes fonctions à la race Bulgare, bien que cependant de la lettre même et de l'esprit du Statut il ressort que la Commission Européenne a cherché à assurer aux minorités la participation à l'administration du pays.

Cette distribution partiale des emplois n'a aucune raison sérieuse de justification, pas même celle de la capacité supérieure ou de la spécialité des personnes nommées à ces fonctions. Les races exclues ne le cèdent en rien aux hommes les plus capables de la majorité, et nous croyons même qu'une comparaison ne tournerait pas à l'avantage de celle-ci. Si donc on ne peut même pas alléguer qu'on avait en vue la prospérité du pays en choisissant les seules personnes capables de le gouverner, il n'y a à donner aucune justification à cette inqualifiable partialité et à cette fausse interprétation de la loi, à moins qu'on ne veuille nous reporter, sous une autre forme et sous un autre nom, au régime déchu tant décrié par ceux-là mêmes justement qui veulent le mettre aujourd'hui en pratique.

Il est de notre devoir, Messieurs, de porter nos démarches à votre connaissance, de protester énergiquement au nom de la population Grecque contre toutes ces violations du Statut Organique, et de déclarer formellement que les Grecs n'entendent nullement être privés des droits que la loi leur a octroyés; bien au contraire, ils en demandent la stricte exécution, entendent prendre part à l'administration du pays, pour cette raison essentielle que la province étant en voie d'organisation et que la fidèle application ou non de la loi dépendent du personnel qui en est chargé, ils considèrent comme leur seule garantie la présence de Grecs dans toutes les branches de l'Administration, et cela, d'ailleurs, conformément aux dispositions du Statut Organique.

Après l'inutilité de nos démarches, nous sommes convaincus qu'il ne nous sera pas rendu justice. Comme vous avez élaboré le Statut Organique et qu'en restant ici vous avez sans doute pour mission d'en surveiller la stricte application, nous recourons donc à vous, Messieurs, pour vous prier de faire droit à nos demandes, afin que nos commettants n'acquièrent pas la persuasion que dans les temps où nous vivons ceux qui revendiquent leurs droits par la voie légale voient leurs justes réclamations rejetées.

Nous, &c.
Les Démogérontes,
(Signé) D. VLADOS.
CHR. A. KOIMZOGLOU.
Z. NEMZOGLOU.
D. ARGYRIADES SVIRADES.
D. CHRISTOLODOS KENDINDENOGLOU.
D. S. ANTONIADES.
AL. GHUMUZGHERDAN.

Philippopoli, le 7/19 Juin, 1879.

No. 476.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 517.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Adrianople on the subject of the Rules of Procedure of the reformed civil Tribunal of the Vilayet of Adrianople, together with a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Judge of the Supreme Court, to whom I submitted Mr. Calvert's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 476.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, May 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Réouf Pasha has sent round a verbal message to the foreign Consuls here to the effect that, "as the reformed

Tribunals are now entirely independent," notices of actions by Ottoman subjects against the subjects of foreign Powers would for the future, if the Consuls were agreeable, be sent in to them (the Consuls) by the Presidents of Tribunals direct, instead of through the Vali as heretofore. It was proposed at the same time that, reciprocally, notices of actions by foreign subjects should be communicated by the Consuls directly to the Tribunals.

I replied that I would inform your Excellency of the Vali's proposal and ask your instructions in the matter.

Your Excellency will perceive that, however trivial this change of procedure may appear to be in itself, it may be held to involve a very important question of principle—that of the irresponsibility of the Ottoman Governor-General, to whom the Consuls are accredited, as regards the local courts of law.

There is nothing to show that the Tribunals are more "independent" now than in the past; and even were it so, anything tending to the application of the above principle would none the less be an infringement of the Capitulations.

My Austrian and French colleagues seem to concur, more or less, in this view.

Whilst awaiting your Excellency's instructions as to the definite reply which I am to make to Réouf Pasha's message, I would submit that, apart from the above question of principle, the proposed arrangement would not be objectionable. It would, indeed, practically facilitate the despatch of business; and it would, therefore, I am inclined to think, be desirable to accept it, if a way can be found at the same time to maintain the immediate responsibility of the Vali towards the Consuls. To this end it seems advisable, in any case, to insist that judicial sentences shall always be communicated to the latter through the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 476.

Acting Judge Burrell to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, June 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state, with reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 5th June, and the inclosed despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, that I have consulted Mr. Alishan on the Rules of Procedure drawn up in Turkish and forwarded by Mr. Calvert.

I requested Mr. Alishan to examine very carefully the Rules of Procedure, which form a Code of some length, with regard to petitions.

Article 17 of these Rules, on petitions, states as follows:—

"The petitions at Constantinople will be remitted to the Havak-djemet (the Council to refer and to transmit petitions), and in the provinces they will be presented to the local authority; and they shall, at least within twenty-four hours, and if urgent, immediately, be referred and sent to the Tribunals under whose jurisdiction they fall. Nevertheless, the Tribunals of First Instance of Constantinople and the adjacent suburbs have permission to receive petitions for cases to the extent of 1,000 piastres, if such cases are in places within the limits of their jurisdiction, without the petitions being obliged to pass through the Havak-djemet."

Thus the verbal proposal of the Vali of Adrianople results from the Rules of Procedure, although it is not actually contained in them.

In practice, the suggestion that, in future, notices of actions by Ottoman subjects against the subjects of foreign Powers should be sent direct to the Consuls by the Presidents of the reformed Tribunals, instead of through the Vali, as heretofore, is good in itself, as it would tend to simplify proceedings. Its adoption, as well as the adoption of the proposed notification of actions by foreign subjects directly by the Consuls to the Presidents of Tribunals, would therefore be advisable. But, without knowing what the reformed Tribunals may really be, and as they have not as yet been able to give any proof of the strict independence they profess, it would be unwise to give up unconditionally the right possessed by long custom by the Consuls.

I am not, however, of opinion that the best way of maintaining that right would be by insisting that judicial sentences should be communicated to the Consuls through the Vali.

If notices of actions are to be given reciprocally by Consuls and Presidents of Tribunals to each other, it would be best also that the sentences should be communicated in the same way.

It would be sufficient, in my opinion, to insist that the proposed change, if accepted, should not in any way prevent Consuls from applying in judicial matters to the Vali whenever, in their judgment, they might think it necessary.

This proviso would still maintain the responsibility of the Vali towards the Consuls, and would not in any way check the dispatch of business.

Without this proviso, I am of opinion that the proposal should not be accepted.

I beg to return Mr. Acting Consul Calvert's despatch and its inclosure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. PALFREY BURRELL.

No. 477.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 519.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas, reporting the arrival of a large quantity of ammunition from Russia for the use of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia.

My Austrian colleague has received officially similar information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 477.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, June 12, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the steam-ship "Russia," which arrived here on the 9th instant from Odessa, has discharged a quantity of (krinke) rifle cartridges, probably about 800 tons.

These cartridges are—as I am able to state on unexceptionable authority—for the use of the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, and are being carted off to Slimnia and the Hasseki Balkan. They filled four large schlepps or Danube lighters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 478.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 523.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 20, 1879.

A DEPUTATION of Christians from Ada-Bazar, to the east of Ismid, at no great distance from the capital, waited upon me yesterday, to place before me the condition of that district. They said that they represented the Christian and Mussulman population alike, and showed me a document authorizing them to do so, which was signed and sealed by a large number of Turks, Armenians, and Greeks. They complained that the Porte, having sent above 40,000 Circassians into the district, there was no longer any security for life and property in it, that the roads were so unsafe that trade had been almost suspended, and that the inhabitants of Ada-Bazar lived almost in a state of siege, as they feared to leave the town. They gave me a long list of murders and robberies committed by the Circassians, and urgently requested me to employ my influence at the Porte to obtain for them proper protection against these excesses.

I asked them whether they had submitted their complaints to the Turkish Government. They said that they had done so, and had been asked what measures they considered necessary for their protection. They had replied that a small number of troops should be at once sent to the district, and that the Circassians, who had been

allowed to migrate to it with their arms, should be disarmed. I promised to do what I could on their behalf. I accordingly instructed Sir A. Sandison to speak on the subject to Carathéodory Pasha, who replied that he was fully acquainted with the state of the Ada-Bazar district, and that the Porte was occupied in considering the measures to be taken to protect the population. His Excellency added that he was scarcely surprised to hear of the excesses committed by the Circassians, as these people, having been hunted out of Europe, and having been deprived of all they possessed, had been sent into Asia without any provision having been made for their maintenance and support. The consequence naturally was, that they were compelled to starve or to rob, and they, not unnaturally, chose the latter alternative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 479.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 524.) *Therapia, June 21, 1879.*

My Lord,

IT is some satisfaction to me to read the following in a private letter addressed to me by Vice-Consul Gatheral:—

"You will, I dare say, be gratified to learn that the interest you have shown in the government of this province has had some good result. The officials compromised have been censured, and one (the Judge of the Court of Preliminary Inquiry) has been superseded altogether, and is now undergoing examination."

Mr. Gatheral's remarks refer to the effect produced by the communication to the Porte of extracts from his despatches relating to the condition of his district. I have learnt from other sources that the system I have adopted of bringing to the notice of the Turkish Government at once such information as I may receive as to the misconduct of Turkish functionaries, as to maladministration, and as to the insecurity to life and property in the provinces, has not been without effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 480.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 527.) *Therapia, June 21, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 602 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, desiring him to report to me upon Dr. Pecchioli's statements as to the state of the Turkish Administration at Cavalla, and of Mr. Blunt's reply. I have caused extracts to be made of the inclosure in Mr. Blunt's despatch, and communicated to Carathéodory Pasha, and have also called his Excellency's serious attention to the unsatisfactory condition of affairs prevailing in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 480.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul-General Blunt.

Therapia, May 23, 1879.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you in original, with the request that you will return it, an extract from a report by the British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, dated 20th March, in which a very unsatisfactory account is given of the state of Turkish administration in his district. Before, however, calling the attention of the Porte to the matter,

I should wish you to make some inquiries as to the correctness of the statements made by Dr Pecchioli, and to report the result to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 480.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, June 10, 1879.*

WITH reference to the report of the British Acting-Consul at Cavalla inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd May, I am unable, from press of business here, to proceed to Cavalla for the purpose of counting or estimating Dr. Pecchioli's statements by personal inquiries on the spot.

A gentleman (a British subject) long established in business at Cavalla, and whose impartiality cannot be doubted, has kindly furnished me with the inclosed letter on the subject.

The account he gives of the state of public affairs in the Sandjak of Drama is in the highest degree unsatisfactory. He states that there is unbridled corruption in the local courts of justice, that the evidence of Christians is not admitted in those Courts against Mussulmans or non-Mussulmans, that the public revenues, the tithes and customs in particular, is shamefully administered and embezzled, and that the country is in urgent need of an organized police force.

This part of European Turkey has, however, suffered more than most other districts from the consequences of the late events, not the least serious of which is the influx of a large number of war fugitives from the neighbouring province of Eastern Roumelia, whose presence involves the administration and inhabitants in growing distress.

I am informed that there are in the Sandjak of Drama alone no less than 82,000 of these fugitives, distributed as follows in its six districts:—Drama, 16,000; Pravista, 4,000; Cavalla, 6,000; Sarishalan, 5,000; Xanthi, 12,000; Gumurdjina, 40,000.

Many of these poor people are forced to take to brigandage and other lawless pursuits, from the authorities not having the means or necessary organization to relieve their wants.

The same disturbing emergency exists with equal force in the other sandjaks of Macedonia, and may become more serious if the report be confirmed that about 20,000 Albanians are shortly expected in this province from the districts recently ceded to Montenegro and Servia.

The writer of the letter which I have inclosed urges the expediency of removing the seat of the Mutessarif of Drama to Cavalla, and strongly recommends that our Consular establishment in that district should be placed on a proper footing. I beg leave to indorse the arguments he gives in support of these suggestions, and to add that in my humble opinion British political and commercial interests would be promoted by the appointment of a paid Vice-Consul at Cavalla.

There is a considerable and a growing export trade from that province to England in tobacco and grain, which requires to be fostered and properly protected.

Moreover, the importance the place has acquired from the territorial and administrative changes effected by the Treaty of Berlin in the contiguous province of Eastern Roumelia, as well as from its proximity to Mount Athos and the neighbouring Russian monastic Colony of Sentnopole, which form the centres of an active Russo-Slav propaganda, has created the necessity of having a properly qualified Consular officer on the spot to observe and report upon political movements and designs in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 480.

Letter addressed to Consul-General Blunt.

Cavalla, le 3 Juin, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI régulièrement reçu votre lettre et je me hâte de vous transmettre les informations qui j'ai pu avoir sur les demandes que vous me faites; mais avant de vous les exposer, je crois devoir vous observer que mes sentiments que vous connaissez déjà, quoiqu'ils soient tout en faveur du peuple Turc, que malgré tout je continue à retenir comme très-loyal et très-honnête, ne m'empêcheront pas de dire toute la vérité en ce qui concerne la manière de gouverner dans les circonstances actuelles.

1. Mauvaise administration, pas de justice dans les Tribunaux, tout finit par des backshish et d'une manière si honteuse que cela dégoute.

2. Si le témoignage des Chrétiens est admis?

Il n'est pas admis contre les Musulmans ni même en litige entre les Grecs.

3. S'il y a des Tribunaux de Commerce?

A Drama et à Xanthe il en existe, mais ils fonctionnent très-irrégulièrement, car ils sont contrariés par les autorités locales, qui veulent si mêler en tout pour profiter du backshish. A Cavalla pas de tidjaret, et quand il y a un différend il se juge mal au Daavi Medjliss.

4. Sur l'Administration des Dounes.

Grand gaspillage. A peine un tiers ou tout au plus la moitié du revenu entre dans les Caisses du Gouvernement; le reste est volé.

La même chose arrive pour les dîmes.

5. Pour la tranquillité publique.

Pour le moment tout est tranquille dans les environs de Cavalla, mais les Bulgares du côté de Nevrocop, Zishna, et autres districts se forment par bandes de vingt-cinq et cinquante et exercent le brigandage. Il y a quelques jours, tout près de Zilhova, ces bandits Bulgares ont enlevé un Albanais Grec, et ils demandent 2,000 livres pour le laisser libre.

En outre, tout près de Kishroner ils ont enlevé trois Turcs et enlevé un enfant, et dernièrement ils sont arrivés jusqu'à une demi heure de Serres, et de là ils ont écrit à diverses personnes de Serres demandant de l'argent et les menaçant de la vie s'ils refusaient, ils signent les cinq Voïvods, et il est à craindre que ces brigandages ne prennent bientôt des proportions plus vastes.

Le Gouvernement pour le moment se trouve impuissant à maintenir la tranquillité non par ce que la bonne volonté lui manque, mais pour la seule raison qu'il n'a pas les moyens n'ayant pas les ressources pécunières. Il paye mal ses zaptiehs, ne leur donnant que 60 misérables piastres, et leur devait presque à tous six mois de leur solde, et par conséquent il n'a qu'un petit nombre de zaptiehs et des gens de peu de valeur, lesquels ayant la famille à nourir, sont forcés eux-mêmes très-souvent de voler pour donner du pain à leurs enfants.

Les Gouverneurs et les Cadis, surtout les derniers, sont des gens inaptes, comme en ce moment-ci le Mutessarif et Cadi de Drama, qui sont gens de la pire espèce et dépouillent le monde.

Il faudrait pour la tranquillité et le bon ordre du pays organiser avant tout la gendarmerie et les Tribunaux, et cela en se servant des Européens pour leur réorganisation.

Il y aurait peut-être beaucoup à dire sur les décisions que le Gouvernement prendra pour la distribution des sandjaks et cazas, par exemple. Il vient dernièrement d'enlever du Vilayet de Salonique le Caza de Gounourjina et de l'unir à Andrinople, ce qui, sans être d'un grand préjudice, porte pourtant des difficultés sur les communications entre Ghumuldjina et Salonica, se font beaucoup plus facilement par les bateaux à vapeur du Lloyd et Messageries Maritimes qui touche à Lagos qu'avec Andrinople, où, pour se rendre il faut aller par terre, mais passons encore cela, ils ont commis encore une autre faute, plus grosse, selon moi, en enlevant le Caza de Xanthe du Sandjak de Drama, pour l'unir au nouveau Mutessarillik qu'ils ont créé à Ghumuldjina, en un moment, par ses fréquents changements ils se créent des difficultés continuelles sans aucun avantage pour le Gouvernement.

Vous me permettrez aussi, M. le Consul-Général, de prendre la liberté de faire une petite observation sur l'état actuelle de Cavalla. Le pays selon moi acquiert journellement de l'importance, car il se trouve placé aujourd'hui entre deux Mutessarilliks—celui de Drama et le nouveau Mutessarillik à Ghumuldjina.

Du côté de ce dernier se trouve le Mont Rhodope avec les Caïmacamliks de Davidère Ahir, Chelebi, Soultan Sui, et Demotika, tous pays d'une certaine importance politique à ce moment.

Du côté du Mutessarifilik de Drama nous avons Nevrocop, Zeitoun, et même Drama, où il y a une grande partie de population Bulgare, et Cavalla se trouvant au milieu de tout cela, je répète que je considère ce pays comme très-important en ce moment-ci, et je me permets d'observer que je suis étonné de voir que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique laisse ce poste avec mon Gérant pour l'ex-Vice-Consul d'Angleterre qui existait, il est à mes yeux très-important que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique lui étendrait un Vice-Consulat effectif et payé comme il en avait autrefois. Tant plus que la Russie, par la proximité à Cavalla de Mont Athos, où il y a deux grands monastères Russes, exerce une surveillance sur tout ce qui me passe dans ces deux Mutessarifliks de Drama et de Ghumuldjina; et par les fréquents voyages de moines dans ces pays, elle intrigue et fait tout son possible pour faire prévaloir l'influence Russe.

En outre, vis-à-vis de Cavalla à Leftnopolis (Cavalla Venhia) les monastères Russes de Mont Athos ont acheté dernièrement un grand Chiflik, où ils ont bâti un monastère, et les moines qui l'habitent voyagent continuellement pour intriguer sur les populations Bulgares de Drama et Ghumuldjina. Je me reprends donc à dire que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne doit pas être représenté à Cavalla par un simple gérant, agent d'une autre Puissance qui a peut-être des intérêts Anglais, et je pense qu'il est nécessaire de créer un Vice-Consulat effectif pour être effectivement et bien informé de ce qui se passera dans ce pays.

En outre, au lieu d'avoir Drama comme chef-lieu de ce sandjac, il serait plus convenable et intéressant que le chef-lieu où doit résider le Mutessarif soit Cavalla. Sa position, au milieu de tous les cazas, et étant une ville maritime où touchent divers bateaux à vapeur de commerce, et très-souvent aussi les navires de guerre, et pour des raisons économiques, pour les transports des troupes qui souvent arrivent et partent en passant par Cavalla, et pour d'autres motifs encore qu'il est superflu de nommer pour ne pas trop vous importuner, M. le Consul-Général.

Si vous pourriez influencer sur ce point vous rendrez un grand service au Gouvernemen Turc lui-même.

No. 481.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 528.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 21, 1879.

I RECEIVED on Saturday morning, the 14th instant, your Lordship's telegraphic instructions, authorizing me to join with the other Representatives in asking the Porte to nominate Commissioners to represent it on the Greek frontier question. I at once informed my French colleague that I was ready to act with him and the other Representatives of the Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, in inviting the Porte to name its Plenipotentiaries to meet those of the Greek Government for the rectification of the Greek frontier. It was not, however, until the day before yesterday that I was requested by M. Fournier to meet my colleagues in order to decide upon the steps that it would be desirable to take in the matter. The Austrian Ambassador, our Doyen, residing in Pera, had suggested, as most convenient, that we should hold the meeting at the French rather than at the Austrian Embassy.

I found my colleagues unanimously of opinion that we should address identic notes to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, inviting the Porte to name its Plenipotentiaries without delay, and to communicate to us their names and the time at which they would be prepared to meet those appointed by Greece. M. Fournier submitted a draft note which he had prepared to that effect. It was accepted unanimously, and it was agreed that it should be delivered to-day by our respective Dragomans to Caratheodory Pasha, which has accordingly been done. I inclose a copy of it.

I called the attention of my colleagues to the fact that the Representatives of the Signatory Powers at Athens had not made an identic communication to the Greek Government, when in pursuance of their instructions they had invited it to name its Plenipotentiaries, and I suggested that there might be some objection to taking a different course here. But as they were unanimously of opinion that even a difference of phraseology in the invitations might be construed by the Porte into a difference of

opinion between us, and that it was consequently of importance that the words used by us should be identic, I did not think it desirable to raise any discussion on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 481.

Sir A. H. Layard to Caratheodory Pasha.

Therapia, June 20, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

THE XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin runs as follows:—

"In the event of the Sublime Porte and Greece being unable to agree upon the rectification of frontier suggested in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia reserve to themselves to offer their mediation to the two parties to facilitate negotiations."

The Conferences at Prevesa had to be brought to a close without the Sublime Porte and Greece having been able to agree upon the rectification of frontier which the Powers which signed the Treaty of the 13th July desired to bring about, in order to establish between the two countries a sincerely good understanding which would have a chance of durability.

My Government is, therefore, of opinion that the moment is come for accepting the mediation called for by that of King George.

It considers that such mediation can be best exercised at Constantinople by the reciprocal counsels which it, as well as the Representatives of the Powers which signed the Treaty of the 13th July, 1878, can give to the two parties, in order to bring about a sincere reconciliation.

I have, therefore, received special instructions from my Government to request the Imperial Government to name Plenipotentiaries who will place themselves in communication with those appointed by the Hellenic Government, to notify to me upon whom their choice has fallen, and, at the same time, to inform me of the earliest date it would be convenient to fix for their meeting at Constantinople.

My Government trusts that the spirit of conciliation and moderation which animates the parties concerned will respond to the intentions of the Powers which met at Berlin, and that this question will be shortly settled, in order that the general peace may be maintained and insured.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 482.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 530.) *Therapia, June* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney on the increase of brigandage in the district of Prevesa, a Memorandum on which I have communicated to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 482.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, June 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that great insecurity prevails in the rural districts, owing to the numerous bands of brigands that infest that part of the country. Up to a very recent date, bands of outlaws carried on their illegal traffic principally in the districts of Conitza, Zagori, and Janina. At present, however, brigandage has assumed such large proportions that I fear there are but very few towns and villages in the interior that can be pointed out as safe places to reside in.

The district of Arta, moreover, deserves special mention, as brigands of quite a different character have made their appearance there. These are thirty-eight in number (two having been captured the other day); they are armed with Martini-Henry rifles, and belong to the battalion of Hoodoots, which battalion is intrusted with the protection of the frontier.

This new band of brigands between the 28th ultimo and the 4th instant made the following captures:—

On the 28th ultimo, at Selova, they captured Christo Tzakalo and his son, and for their release they demanded £ T. 500. The latter, however, encouraged by the former, managed to escape, whereupon the father was immediately put to death by the brigands.

On the same day, at Elefterokori, they captured a boy eleven years old, the son of a certain Kapsali, and £ T. 500 was demanded for his release.

On the 4th instant, at Stroma, they entered the house of Nicolao Demd, and carried him off, besides everything that was of value.

On the same day a Jew, Moson Guilem, was likewise carried off, and his ransom set down at £ T. 150.

On the following day, the 5th instant, a body of troops from Arta, assisted by the peasantry, started in pursuit of the brigands, and the latter finding themselves hard pressed, they murdered young Kapsali and Nicolao Demd. During the pursuit two of the brigands finding their retreat cut off took refuge in a cave, which was immediately surrounded by their pursuers, and when called upon to surrender they replied that they would surrender only to Captain Faisly Bey of their battalion. Faisly Bey, who was at Arta at the time, was consequently sent for, and the two soldier-brigands gave themselves up to him. They were then sent to Arta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 483.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 531.) *Therapia, June* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by Monseigneur Narses, the Armenian Patriarch, complaining that the Porte was about to send 4,000 refugee families from Roumelia to the district of Moush, in Armenia. I understand that his Beatitude has sent a similar letter to several of my colleagues.

When calling yesterday on his Beatitude, I asked him to give me some details with respect to his letter. Were the families to which it referred Mussulman families? Did they really come from Roumelia? Were they Circassians? From whence did he obtain his information? And on what ground did he object to the settlement in a district like Moush of quiet and industrious people, although Mussulmans, who would be a check upon the Kurds? His Beatitude could not give me any satisfactory answers to my questions, and appeared to know little or nothing about the matter. He sent for his Secretary to explain his letter. That gentleman said that rumours had reached the Patriarchate of the intention of the Porte to send these families, who, he presumed, were composed of Mussulmans, to Moush, and that consequently the Patriarch had addressed the Embassies on the subject. He knew nothing more. I told his Beatitude that, without being furnished with more exact and trustworthy information, I could not address any representations to the Porte; but that if he would give me full particulars, I would take such steps in the matter as I properly could. In the meanwhile I will forward a copy of his Beatitude's letter to Major Trotter for a report.

His Beatitude is in the habit of sending complaints of this kind to the foreign Embassies, with the object, I have every reason to believe, of getting up an "Armenian question." They frequently contain very exaggerated, if not unfounded, statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 483.

Monsignor Nerses to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

AYANT appris que le Gouvernement Impérial a projeté d'envoyer 4,000 familles émigrées de Roumélie dans le district de Mousel, en Arménie, je prends la liberté d'avoir recours à la puissante intervention de votre Excellence pour épargner à la malheureuse population Chrétienne de ce district de nouvelles et de cruelles épreuves.

Votre Excellence n'ignore pas qu'une contrée aussi désolée ne saurait offrir les ressources nécessaires pour l'entretien d'une nombreuse colonie. Elle sait de plus que ces émigrés de Roumélie sont rien moins qu'ennemis de l'ordre et du progrès; que les Arméniens souffrent déjà trop de l'oppression des Kurdes, et que la présence d'un nouvel élément de désordre et de perturbation les pousserait au désespoir.

Si rien ne se fait, Excellence, pour empêcher le mal qui existe, on peut au moins, croyons-nous, éviter ce qui peut aggraver la situation, en renouvelant ces déplorables scènes qui ont si vivement ému le public en Europe.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) NERSES.

No. 484.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 532.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the decypher of a cyphered despatch from Lieutenant Chermside, describing the state of affairs at Zeitoun. I have communicated the substance of this despatch to Carathéodory Pasha, and have called his serious attention to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Zeitoun, May 30, 1879.

I HAVE visited Zeitoun, and spent ten days there and in the neighbourhood. The cringing and terror-struck attitude of the population is a great contrast to their fine physique. Not the slightest evidence existing of there ever having been anything worthy of the name of rebellion. Although I am convinced that abundant evidence exists of the cruel, arbitrary, and fanatical acts of Weissi Pasha and other functionaries to disgrace them for life, if investigated under the impartial scrutiny of a European Commission, I have little or no hope that, from the way the inquiry was conducted, matters will be impartially represented to the Porte. Vague assurances that the subordinates would be pardoned were given to the brigands, but the Chiefs were not named, none having availed themselves of the opportunity to make their submission. Minute inquiries as to all the asserted acts of rebellion, &c., have been made, and 120 of the Marash prisoners, the remainder of 323 prisoners, 200 of whom have been released as innocent or illegally confined, will remain imprisoned in this hot weather for trial after eight months' confinement. The condition of the town and people of Zeitoun is a disgrace to any Government, it is hardly an exaggeration to call it an outrage on humanity. I cannot conceive any more ignoble policy than to try and shield and protect the functionaries and officials who have been the main cause of this state of affairs, and to attempt, by giving undue importance to the errors and imprudences of a population that had good cause to despair of redress, to throw the blame rather upon them, rather than by a spirit of conciliation and by repair of their grievances to attach them to the Government at whose hands they have so cruelly suffered.

(Signed) CHERMSIDE.

No. 485.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 533.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 21, 1879.*

I DIRECTED Sir Alfred Sandison to again call the most serious attention of Carathéodory Pasha to the conduct of Hussein Pasha of Scutari, who seemed determined to embroil the Porte with Montenegro and with the European Powers, and who might probably succeed in doing so if he were permitted to remain in his present Government. He evidently appeared to be still intriguing with the Albanian Chiefs with a view to prevent the execution of the Treaty of Berlin as regards the delimitation of the new frontier and in other respects. I asked whether the report that Russia had demanded his recall was true.

His Excellency replied that it was true; and he promised to give his serious attention to the subject. He admitted that I had on more than one occasion earnestly advised that Hussein Pasha should be removed from Scutari; but he had understood from Musurus Pasha that all your Lordship required was that Hussein Pasha should be furnished with stricter instructions from the Porte, and ordered to obey them. This had been done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 486.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 535.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 21, 1879.*

THE Armenian Patriarch, Archbishop Nerses, told me yesterday, when I was calling upon him, that, at a meeting held that day by the Commission of Notables charged with the administration of the affairs of the Armenian community, a unanimous vote of thanks had been passed to me for the services I had rendered to the Armenians, through my representations in their favour to the Porte. I availed myself of the occasion to ask his Beatitude what he meant by stating in his letter to Mr. Malet, of which a copy was forwarded to your Lordship in his despatch No. 370 of the 3rd ultimo, that "the Armenians had rarely had the happiness to see in the East Representatives of the English Government animated with a sincere desire to use their influence for the amelioration of the lot of the Christian and Mussulman populations of the Empire." I considered such a statement, I said, a most unjust and unfounded reflection upon Her Majesty's Representatives, and I should be glad to hear to whom he particularly alluded. I had never heard, I observed, of an English Representative in the East who was indifferent to the happiness and welfare of the Christian and Mussulman subjects of the Sultan. On the contrary, the influence of England had always been exercised in their behalf, and I had no hesitation in saying that the Christians of Turkey, without distinction of creed, owed more to it than to that of any other nation. His Beatitude, I added, would always find me ready to do all in my power to obtain justice and good government for the Armenians, as well as for all other Christians in the Turkish Empire, and to use my utmost endeavours to that end. In doing so, I was not only acting upon my own convictions, but carrying out the policy of Her Majesty's Government. But, I added, his Beatitude must not expect me to take part in any intrigues for upsetting the present political condition of Western Asia, and for undermining the authority of the Sultan. I warned him that such intrigues could only tend to bring misfortune upon the Armenians themselves, and that, if he really desired the happiness and welfare of the community, he should use all legitimate means to obtain good and just government for the Armenians, in which he would have my entire support, instead of endeavouring to carry out wild and impracticable schemes.

His Beatitude observed that he had meant nothing by the expression in his letter to Mr. Malet, to which I had referred, that the Armenians would be for ever grateful to England for what she had done for them, and that he had no cause to complain of indifference on the part of Her Majesty's Representatives to the interests of his community.

I thought it as well to speak thus plainly to his Beatitude, as I have every reason to believe that there are persons, having influence over him, who are endeavouring to draw him into intrigues, which are certainly not calculated to promote the true interests of the Armenians, but which may, on the contrary, have the effect of retarding, instead of promoting, the reforms and the just and good administration that is the desire and object of Her Majesty's Government to see introduced into the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 487.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 537.)
Therapia, June 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the instructions that I have given to General Sir C. Dickson as to the object of his visit to Philippopolis. M. Fournier was good enough to show me those that he had addressed to Captain de Torcy, and I have adopted them in substance. My French colleague thought it very desirable that it should be clearly understood that Sir C. Dickson and Captain de Torcy's mission was limited to giving advice as to the putting into execution of the regulations for the gendarmerie which they had themselves prepared, and that it should be clearly understood that they were not commissioned to make an inquiry into the conduct of General Vitalis, or of any one else connected with the corps, as if an impression to that effect were to exist it might weaken the authority of the General, and lead to results which it was very necessary to avoid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 487.

Sir A. H. Layard to General Sir C. Dickson.

Therapia, June 23, 1879.

Sir,

THE Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia and the Council of Directors have expressed a desire that you should return to Philippopolis for a short time with Captain de Torcy to aid General Vitalis with your advice in putting into execution the regulations for the organization of the gendarmerie, which were prepared by yourself and your French colleague during your recent visit to that town. It is simply with this object that your presence at Philippopolis is required, and not with a view to instituting an inquiry into the constitution of the gendarmerie or into the conduct of any one connected with it, though I should be glad to receive from you any report that you may be disposed to make to me on these subjects. It is desirable that you should not spend too much time in Philippopolis, and I trust that you may find it convenient to return to Constantinople by the end of next or the beginning of the following week. Mr. Michell, Her Majesty's Consul-General, who will be apprized of your approaching arrival, will, I feel sure, give you all the assistance you may require in the execution of your mission.

M. de Torcy will receive from the French Ambassador instructions similar in substance to those which I have now the honour of giving you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 488.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 540. Very Confidential.)
Therapia, June 24, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch to your Lordship No. 383 of the 8th ultimo, I mentioned that the Sultan had told me that he was prepared to propose a new frontier line for Greece,

No. 486*.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 536.)
Therapia, June 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE been constantly pressing upon the Grand Vizier and Carathéodory Pasha, during the last few days, not only the importance, but the absolute necessity of beginning to put into execution the reforms in Asiatic Turkey which the Sultan has pledged himself to Her Majesty's Government to introduce into that part of His Majesty's dominions. I have reminded them that a year has now elapsed since the Convention of June was signed, and that as yet little or nothing has been done on the part of the Porte to fulfil its engagements to England. The Christian populations of Asiatic Turkey still urgently require security for their lives and property, and are bitterly disappointed that, notwithstanding the promises made by the Turkish Government to that of Her Majesty, no adequate measures have yet been taken for their protection, and to insure to them equal treatment with their Mahommedan fellow-subjects. I have referred to the numerous reports received from Her Majesty's Consular officers, and from other trustworthy sources, which I have submitted to the Porte, as to the anarchy which appears to prevail in many parts of Asia Minor, and as to the excesses committed by Circassians, Kurds, and other lawless people upon Mussulmans and Christians alike. Although in many places, no doubt, the authorities are sincerely desirous of putting an end to this state of things, they are unable to do so from the want of a proper police, and no measures appear yet to have been taken for the establishment of an effective gendarmerie, which His Highness had repeatedly assured me was about to be organized. A distinct promise had been given to me by the Sultan himself that the reforms promised to Her Majesty's Government should be introduced at once into two vilayets, and had even mentioned to me the vilayets which it had been proposed to select for the experiment. It would be something, I have urged, if at least a beginning were made in one province, so that Her Majesty's Government might have some proof of the serious intention of the Porte to put the Convention into execution.

I must do both Haireddin Pasha and Carathéodory Pasha the justice to say that they fully admitted that my complaints were well founded; but they pleaded the unsatisfactory state of the relations between the Palace and the Porte, which formed a most serious impedient to the transaction of all business, and to the action of the Ministry, as the reason why the promised reforms had not been commenced. His Highness said that he was now endeavouring to put these relations on a better footing, and had given the Sultan to understand that unless more power were accorded to his Ministers, and the interference of the Palace in public affairs were put an end to, he could no longer continue to carry on the Government. If he succeeded in the struggle in which he was engaged, and could exercise that power which, as Grand Vizier, he ought to possess, I might rest assured that his first and most urgent duty would be to restore order, and to introduce the required reforms into the Turkish provinces both in Europe and Asia. He was prepared to commence at once with the special reforms to which I had referred, not in one but in three of the Asiatic vilayets. He had already made them a matter of study, and was ready to put them into execution as soon as he could get rid of the opposition in the Palace and in his own Ministry, by which all his efforts for the improvement of the condition of the Empire and of its administration had been paralyzed. There was still the want of money, which was a most serious obstacle to the introduction of some essential reforms, such as the organization of the gendarmerie, but he was engaged in studying a financial scheme, which, if carried out as he hoped it would be, would afford the necessary means to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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which, he believed, would satisfy all interests concerned, and that he would communicate that line confidentially to me. Twice when I afterwards saw His Majesty he informed me that he could not fulfil his promise, as the papers were with Osman Pasha. On a subsequent occasion, when I dined with His Majesty, and Haireddin Pasha and Osman Pasha were present, he told the latter, after dinner, to produce the map upon which this line was traced. His Excellency excused himself from doing so, on the ground that the map was at the Ministry of War. His Majesty said that he had given orders for the map to be ready to be submitted to me, and appeared annoyed that he had not been obeyed. His Majesty then asked me to meet Haireddin and Osman Pashas at the Porte, to see the map, two days after, and an appointment to that effect was accordingly made. I attended it. The Grand Vizier sent for Osman Pasha, who then pretended that he had left the map at the Palace. Haireddin Pasha angrily reproached him for having brought me from Therapia to Constantinople on a fruitless errand, and insisted that he should find a map of some kind on which he could indicate to me the proposed new frontier suggested by the Sultan. After some hesitation, he produced a map on which he indicated a line giving considerably less territory to Greece than that finally offered to the Greek Commissioners at Prevesa, and rejected by them. I pointed this out to the Grand Vizier, observing that after what the Sultan had said to me it was quite impossible that this was the line which His Majesty had intended to submit to me. Osman Pasha having denied the accuracy of what I had stated His Highness sent for Carathéodory Pasha, and requested him to produce a map showing the line proposed at the last meeting of the Commissioners. This he accordingly did, when it appeared, as I had stated, that it was considerably to the north of that which Osman Pasha informed me the Sultan was prepared to offer. Haireddin Pasha was very much vexed with Osman Pasha's evident shuffling.

Since the meeting at the Porte I have described, I have heard nothing more on the subject. I have little doubt that through Osman Pasha's intrigues the Sultan has been prevented carrying out his intention of making a proposal which might have admitted of favourable consideration by some, at least, of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 489.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 541.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Major Trotter, reporting the steps he has taken to maintain cordial and intimate relations with the Imperial Commissioners, without giving the Representatives of other Powers occasion to claim the same privileges.

I have informed Major Trotter that I entirely approve of the course he has taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June 12, 1879.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to state that on receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 5th June I called, by appointment, on the Imperial Commissioners on the 7th June, to endeavour to come to an understanding with them on the subject of my joining the Commission in its labours. I was informed by the Commission that they too, subsequent to our former interview, had telegraphed to Constantinople for instructions, and that they had been informed in return that the Imperial Government approved of their proposal, "that they would always be very glad to see me at all times, and that they would communicate freely with me all they did, and all they proposed to do." I expressed myself satisfied with this as far as it goes, but said that, in case they travelled in the districts, I presumed

they would have no objection to my accompanying them in their tour. They replied that they would be delighted to have the pleasure of my company.

I have, since that interview, been with the Commissioners for an hour or two every day, and have been always well received. We have discussed matters freely together, and the Commissioners appear perfectly willing to listen to and give consideration to any suggestions I have to make. I spent some hours with them one day while they were in the prison investigating some affairs connected with the escape of some convicts during the war.

In short, the position I occupy with regard to the Commissioners might, by a friendly critic, be compared to that of a "Cabinet Minister without a portfolio," while a hostile critic might liken it "to that of a somewhat specially-favoured newspaper correspondent."

Considering that I am not a member of the Commission, and am not officially recognized by the Government as attached to it, and that I have received special instructions from your Excellency "to avoid giving other Powers the occasion for demanding, as a right, the same privileges that are accorded to me," I do not see that I could have arranged better than I have. It must be borne in mind that Russia and France are both represented here in Erzeroum, where the Commission proposes staying for some months, and I have, therefore, to be extremely cautious what I do.

There can be no doubt that the success or non-success of my connection with the Commission will depend very much on my maintaining intimate and cordial relations with the Commissioners. Up to the present everything has gone well, and it will be my special object to maintain and improve the friendly relations which have already been established.

I shall be glad to learn whether your Excellency approves of the action I have taken in the matter.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this despatch for the favour of transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major,*
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 490.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 542.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Major Trotter, giving an account of the proceedings of the Imperial Commissioners hitherto, and of their intended plans for the remainder of the year.

Your Lordship will learn with satisfaction that some steps are being taken by the Porte to carry out its promises of reform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 490.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Erzeroum, June 12, 1879.*

THE Imperial Commission for the reform of the Erzeroum and Van Vilayets have now been three weeks in Erzeroum, and although it cannot be said to have made much progress in its labours, it is, no doubt, better that it should proceed with due deliberation than that it should gloss over any of the numerous important subjects which will be brought before it.

The Commissioners have recently received telegraphic orders from Constantinople to submit to the Turkish Government monthly reports of the progress made in Turkish for the Ottoman Government and in French for communication to the Ambassadors.

The principal work on which they have hitherto been engaged has been the discussion of the gendarmerie scheme, for the consideration of which a Sub-Commission has been formed, composed of representatives from each district (nominated by the Wali

Pasha). The Commissioners have also spent much time in personally inspecting the central gaol, where prisoners under sentence of death and long imprisonment are sent from all the eastern Provinces of Turkey in Asia. A number of the convicts (about 20) escaped during the war, and the Commissioners have been investigating the matter and endeavouring to arrange for the re-arrest of those who escaped. They are also investigating numerous individual cases where men have been kept in prison for months without condemnation, and in many cases, I believe, without trial. These will probably be put on their trial without loss of time.

The future programme of the Commissioners as communicated by them to me is somewhat as follows:—Before leaving Erzeroum they propose drawing up a scheme for the new gendarmerie, which will be submitted to the Porte for approval. They also propose superintending the election of the new Tribunals which will be conducted under the new regulations. The whole of the members of the various existing Medjlisses are to retire, and new Medjlisses will be formed. The Commission also propose making certain recommendations for the improvement of the postal and telegraphic service of the Vilayet.

A special Commission will be shortly formed, of which Yusuf Pasha is to be the President, and the members are to selected from the different communities ("jemi'at") for considering a general scheme of reform for the province.

While employed on these special duties, the Commission will also take into consideration the masses of petitions on various subjects which are daily pouring in. They do not propose leaving Erzeroum until the project of reforms shall be discussed, the new Medjlisses shall have been elected, and the gendarmerie scheme finally settled.

After leaving Erzeroum, where they expect to be detained for at least three months, they propose visiting various districts of the province in the following order:—Keghi, Khanys, Malusgird, Alishgird, Bayazid, Ardisch, Van. They propose to spend the winter at Van, and to continue their journey in the provinces in the spring as soon as the country is practicable, passing successively through the districts of Juhanerk, Bitlis, Mush, and Erzinjian, and if necessary Baibart and Ispir. They hope to finish their work before the winter of 1880-81.

The only exception I have as yet taken to this programme is that I have represented that if the consideration of the affairs of Erzinjian be postponed until the autumn of 1880 some big catastrophe may happen, the Dersim country may be irretrievably ruined, and a vast amount of blood and treasure may be unnecessarily spent. The Commissioners replied that they could not come to any decision in the matter until they were in possession of more information.

This matter is a very important one, and I would request your Excellency's special attention and intervention.

In my despatch of the 7th June, I informed your Excellency that Dervish Pasha was operating against the so-called Dersim insurgents with more than thirty battalions, acting quite independently of the Wali Pasha, who is as ignorant as I am of what is going on. Dervish Pasha persistently keeps the Wali Pasha and the Imperial Commissioners in ignorance of his proceedings, and it is said intercepts all letters and telegrams coming from the scene of operations. The Commissioners have themselves complained to me that they can learn nothing of what is going on. It is generally believed in the highest circles that Dervish Pasha is merely working for his own aggrandisement, utterly irrespective of the good of the country, or of the Government. Under any circumstances it appears to me that, however important may be the matters to which the Imperial Commissioners are giving their attention in this part of the vilayet, there is more urgent political necessity, especially in the critical state of the finances of the Empire, for putting a stop if possible to a state of things in another portion of the vilayet, where a Mushir of the Empire, at the head of thirty battalions, is waging war against a population of from 100,000 to 150,000 Kizzilbash Kurds, while the Wali Pasha and the Imperial Commissioners are professedly completely ignorant not only of how the war is being waged, but why it was undertaken.

I believe the Commissioners have made representations to the Porte similar to what I have made to your Excellency.

Another very important matter that has engaged the Commissioners' special attention is that of the payment for supplies provided for the army during the war. In many villages near the scene of military operations and on the lines of march of the troops, regular and irregular, before and after the war, the villagers hold receipts for supplies taken for the Turkish army of a value generally exceeding the amount of Virgoo taxes now about to be collected. The villagers have naturally applied, in lieu of paying down cash, to have an equivalent amount deducted from what is due to them by the Govern-

ment. The military auditors reply that the accounts have not been audited, and all claims must be submitted to Erzinjian, the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps. The villagers neither wish to run the risk incurred in parting with their vouchers, nor to expose themselves to the inevitable delay that must occur in the settlement of their claims if they have to carry them to Erzinjian. (It must be recollected there is no trustworthy post in this part of the world.)

Your Excellency is also doubtless aware that arrears of taxes due for the last three years (91, 92, and 93) will, up to the end of the current month, be received in caïmé, at the rate of 350 piastres caïmé per lira, whereas, if not paid by the 1st July, arrears will have to be paid in gold. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance to them that their accounts be settled before the end of the month, which is absolutely impossible under existing arrangements. They have been told to pay their arrears of taxes now, and their counter-claims will be settled hereafter. The Commissioners, however, are, I believe, so impressed with the importance of doing justice to the villagers that they have recommended, or are about to recommend, that instead of creditors being obliged to take their claims to Erzinjian, where they are pretty sure to be robbed, Dervish Pasha will be requested to send an official to the spot to audit the accounts, and the Sublime Porte will be requested to receive caïmé in payment of arrears for a further period of six months.

These are two very desirable steps for the well-being and contentment of the province, especially those parts that have suffered so much during the war, whose populations will naturally contrast their lot with that of their former fellow-subjects.

I was told yesterday, as a fact, by the Armenian Bishop (although I confess I can hardly credit the statement) that the Russian Government have just declared that in all the provinces recently annexed the taxes will be remitted for a period of eight years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
Consul for Kurdistan.

No. 491.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June 30.*)

(No. 543.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Philippopolis, Bourgas, Bengazi, Adrianople, Rustchuk, and Scio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 155.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 16, 1879.*

THE orphanage established in this town by the Society whose constitution I had the honour to report in my despatch of the 5th instant was formally opened on the 14th instant, in the presence of the Governor-General, the Bulgarian Metropolitan, a few Bulgarian Notables, and a large assembly of Bulgarian ladies, headed by Madame Skobeleff.

The Metropolitan was affected to tears in delivering an address, in which he expressed the fervent gratitude of the Bulgarian population towards Russia for having delivered their country from Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 157. Confidential.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 18, 1879.*

I HAVE been informed by a functionary attached to General Stolipine's Chancery that the latter had requested permission to accelerate the evacuation of this province, but that the Russian Minister of War had refused his consent, on the ground that it would be impossible to prepare barrack accommodation for the troops returning home before the date originally fixed for their embarkation at Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 158.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 17, 1879.*

THE Governor-General having been informed by telegraph that twenty Turks had descended from the mountains in the district of Bourgas and killed two Bulgarians, General Vitalis was dispatched yesterday to make inquiries and to take such steps as might be necessary to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents.

I met the General yesterday morning at the Papozly Railway station, on my way back from Tchirpan, and he informed me that he intended to bring "the insurgents" at once to reason, but that having forgotten to take with him the Firman under which he had been appointed, and which he intended to read to the "insurgents," he had ordered a messenger to be sent after him with that document, on the efficacy of which he appeared greatly to rely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 162.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a leading article published this day in the "Philippoupoli," which reverts to the exclusion of the Greek element from its due share in the occupation of public offices in this province, and urging that the tendency manifested in the continued disregard of the interests of minorites is that of converting Eastern Roumelia into a "Southern Bulgaria."

The article warns the Bulgarians that the course at present pursued towards those minorities will give rise to serious discontent and trouble, and therefore necessitate the occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 163.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June 18, 1879.*

THE following appointments have been made under an Order signed by the Governor-General on the 16th instant, viz.:—

1. Grecoff (a Bulgarian), Chef d'Arrondissement at Yamboli, to be Secretary to the Prefecture of Slivno.
2. P. Mihailoff (Bulgarian), to be Councillor to the Prefecture of Slivno, *vice* M. Gulmiazoff.
3. Stephan Mitoff (Bulgarian), to be Councillor to the Prefecture of Eski-Zaghra.

4. Mitcho Popoff (Bulgarian), to be Councillor to the Prefecture of Hasskeui.
5. Hussein Zadé Selim Efendi (Turk), to be Chief of the Arrondissement of Aïdos.
6. Jilesko Petkoff (Bulgarian), to be Chief of the Arrondissement of Kyzil-Aghatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 164.) *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.

Sir,

COLONEL KESSIAKOFF left this town yesterday for Bulgaria, where he has obtained an appointment.

I take this opportunity of reporting to your Excellency that, on my recent journey to the Balkans, I was assured by a Russian eye-witness that Colonel Kessiakoff had caused forty Turkish peasants to be massacred in the following manner near a village in the neighbourhood of Shipka:—He caused a trench to be dug and the prisoners to be placed in a row at the edge of it; after which he ordered his Bulgarian soldiers to bayonet them and thrust them into the trench.

The same informant stated that Prince Viazemski, a Russian General of Brigade, rode up to the scene of this massacre when the work had just been completed, and that he fainted at the ghastly sight.

It appears, also, that although a court-martial was immediately appointed to try Colonel Kessiakoff for this atrocity, yet that its proceedings were stopped and the matter hushed up in order to prevent it becoming known in Europe.

I understand, however, that cases of the above description were, nevertheless, discovered by Mr. Consul Blunt during his investigations in the Kyzanlik district in the autumn of 1877, and reported by him to your Excellency.

I may add that the earlier antecedents of Colonel Kessiakoff in this town, before he entered the Russian service, are stated to have been of the worst possible description.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 165.) *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.

Sir,

THE inclosed letter, addressed to the "Maritza" by M. D. Veneziani, who has been charged with the repatriation of the Jews who left this province on the arrival of the Russians, states that his co-religionists have been cordially received at Kyzanlik by the Bulgarians, and that the inhabitants of Carlovo have likewise promised them a hearty welcome.

It appears also that the Jews of Yamboli, Slivno, and Hasskeui have been entirely reinstated in the possession of their houses and property.

The difficulty which has been encountered at Eski-Zaghra refers to the prejudices of the Bulgarian inhabitants of that town, who affirm that their Jewish fellow-citizens had acted as denunciators during the massacre of August 1877.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 8 in No. 491.

Extract from the "Maritza" of June 5/17, 1879.

Philippopoli, le 13 Juin, 1879.

M. le Rédacteur,

JE compte sur votre obligeance empressée pour l'insertion, dans les colonnes de votre journal, de la lettre suivante que j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser dans le but de relever certaines erreurs qui, faute de renseignements exacts, se sont glissées dans votre dernier numéro.

Je suis chargé par mon frère, N. E. T. Vénéziani, Représentant de M. le Baron de Hirsch et de l'Alliance Israélite de Paris, du rapatriement en Roumélie Orientale, de tous mes coreligionnaires qui ont quitté le pays au commencement de la guerre Turco-Russe.

Je constate avec reconnaissance que j'ai été puissamment aidé dans mon œuvre par Mgr. Anthyme, Président de l'Assemblée Nationale de Bulgarie, sa Béatitude l'Exarque Jossif, M. le Dr. Tschoumacoff et de M. Naïdénoff, ex-chef du district de Kézanlik et actuellement Chef de Karlova.

Les Israélites ont été cordialement reçus à Kézanlik par les Bulgares, qui se sont empressés de mettre des maisons à leur disposition. Les habitants de Karlovo ont également promis de leur faire le même chaleureux accueil.

Les Israélites de Yamboli, Slivno, et Hasskeui sont aujourd'hui entièrement réintégrés dans leurs foyers et dans leurs biens.

Je me fais ici un vrai plaisir d'adresser mes sincères remerciments à M. Nicolas Ivanoff, Chef du district de Tchirpan et à M. Tsankoff, Chef du district de Yamboli, pour le bienveillant concours qu'ils m'ont prêté.

Le retour des Israélites de Eski-Zaghra n'est pas encore effectué à cause de certaines difficultés qui ont surgi en dernier lieu, mais que j'espère surmonter en peu de jours, grâce à la sagesse de l'administration générale.

Pour me conformer toujours aux charitables désirs de l'illustre philanthrope, M. le Baron de Hirsch, j'ai remis à la Municipalité de Kézanlik une somme de £ T. 20 pour être distribuées aux veuves et orphelins Bulgares de cette ville.

Le mot "réconciliation" pleine et entière se trouvent aujourd'hui dans toutes les bouches.

Les différentes populations du pays doivent généreusement jeter un voile sur les griefs réciproques qu'elles peuvent avoir, se tendre une main amicale, et travailler ensemble, sans récrimination, et sans jalousie, à la prospérité générale de cette province.

C'est à la presse et aux gens instruits à ne jamais rappeler au peuple le triste passé, quel que soit le côté où se trouvent les torts, et à faire courageusement entrer les nationalités dans la voie de la concorde et de la fraternité.

Voilà ce que j'affirme, voilà ce qui est en tout conforme à la vérité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D. VENEZIANI.

Inclosure 9 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 166.) *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a letter published this day in the local Greek organ, giving a list of thirty-six cases in which, during the course of one day, Bulgarian militiamen had torn fezes from the heads of Turks in the streets of this town.

Russian and Bulgarian officers have likewise been guilty of similar proceedings, and I have on several occasions brought the latter to the notice of the Governor-General.

His Excellency sent for the Police-master a few days ago, and in somewhat violent language ordered him to take necessary measures for the suppression of such assaults.

The result has been the publication of the notice referred to in the inclosed paragraph, under which any person caught in the act of tearing off a fez will be fined 25 roubles, and, moreover, conducted to the Fifth Police Ward, where, during the Russian occupation of this town, the rod was freely administered without any process of law.

I have reason to believe that the Police-master left here by General Stolipine intends to continue that practice, in consideration of its well-proved salutary effect on the Bulgarian mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 10 in No. 491.

Extract from the "Philippopoli" of June 18, 1879.

ON nous adresse la lettre suivante:—

"Monsieur le Directeur,—Samedi dernier les miliciens de Philippopoli ont déchiré les 'fez' des personnes dont les noms suivent: Yenouk Kazsli Suléiman, Chérif Karindachi Mehmed, Philibéli Tutundji, Osman, Mehmed Oglou Chérif, Mahmoud Effendi, Raverdli Mehmed, Tatarlarli Dervich Agha, Philibéli Hadji Molla Oglou Nazif Agha, Oglou Kastan, Raverdlerli Husséin, Ali Oglou Ismail, Omour Oglou Karieli Ahmet Bey, Hamétli Kirieli Mehmed Halim, Fazli Bey, Ravedlerli Kadir Oglou Aali, Philibéli Berber Latif Suléiman Oglou Mehmet Bey, Karieli Abdoullah Agha, Emin Oglou Osman Moustafa Sevisli Karieli Kara Suléiman, Inchekdji Karieli Ali Oglou Omer, Ali Oglou Mehmed, Philibéli Nazif Aghaning Mahdoumi Raif, Kodja Béiliden Suli Oglou Tevfik, Seviehlili Arif Oglou Suléiman, Ibrasgler Khanédanindan Chérif Agha, Ali Fazili Molla Ahmet Oglou Ismail, Berdjidji Karieli Selim Oglou Ismail, Kara Djohdeli Emin Agha, Assa Oglou Suléiman Kiobessoli Yan Oya Karieli Mehmet Karadjer Ohdetli Ahmet Arif, Toudjarindan Tahtadji Ismaïl Agha, Ravedlerli Ahmet Oglou Vefsil, Ismaïl.

"C'est donc un total de trente-six déchirés. Parmi ces personnes maltraitées il y en a eu sept qui ont été en même temps plus ou moins gravement blessées, et quelques autres qui ont été allégées non-seulement du 'fez' mais encore de leurs ceintures.

"Ces actes blâmables ont été particulièrement commis dans le quartier de Hadji Hassan Mahalessi et dans les rues débouchant au Bazar. Les auteurs de cette destruction héroïque de 'fez' étaient, ainsi que nous le disons plus haut, des soldats appartenant à la milice en garnison dans notre ville."

"Veuillez, &c.
"L'ORDRE.

"*Philippopoli, 28 Mai*, 1879."

Nous annonçons avec plaisir que la Préfecture de Police, prenant en sérieuse considération les nombreuses plaintes qu'occasionnait la guerre acharnée au "fez," a publié, samedi dernier, un arrêté par lequel tout individu qui se permettra de traquer ce modeste couvre-chef sera puni d'une amende de 25 roubles, et, par-dessus le marché, sera envoyé au Cinquième Quartier, qui ne manque pas d'être un charmant séjour, d'après ce qu'assurent, du moins, ceux qui y ont passé quelques heures.

Tout le monde se félicite de cette mesure énergique qui mettra, croyons nous, un terme à cette persécution de coiffures.

Inclosure 11 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 167.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.

THE inclosed extract from the "Philippoupoli" refers to the act of brigandage in the district of Bourgas, reported in my despatch No. 158 of the 17th June.

A letter published in the Bulgarian portion of the "Maritza" of yesterday's date states that several bands of Turks, carrying standards, had made their appearance in the districts of Ahiolou and Aïdos. The writer is of opinion that the "Greek propaganda" in Ahiolou and Messevria is in intimate connection with those events, the object of the Greeks being to bring about the necessity of sending to the Balkans Turkish troops, by whom the Bulgarians living in those districts may be killed off.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 12 in No. 491.

Extract from the "Philippoupoli" of June 18, 1879.

LE Général Vitalis, accompagné de deux officiers de la milice, est parti Lundi matin pour Bourgas.

D'après certaines rumeurs publiques, le départ du Général Vitalis pour Bourgas aurait été nécessité par l'apparition à Aétos d'une bande de trente brigands, que l'on dit

être Musulmans, ayant pour Chef un certain Tchoban Moustapha, et dont les nombreux vols, les actes de violence, et le pillage, épouvantent depuis quelques jours les habitants du département de Bourgas.

Si, comme on persiste à le dire, cette bande de brigands existe réellement, nous ne doutons un seul instant que la valeur et la grande expérience du Général Vitalis n'en aient facilement et promptement raison.

Inclosure 13 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 168.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 18, 1879.

THE "Maritza" of yesterday's date publishes a letter from Harmanli, giving an account of the reception of General Obrutcheff in that town on the $\frac{9th}{21st}$ ultimo.

The Bulgarian Bishop of Lefki expressed on that occasion a confident hope that Russia would finally liberate the Bulgarians of Thrace and Macedonia from their "onerous subjection to the Sultan."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 14 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 169.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Colonel Borthwick returned yesterday, and after an interview which he had this morning with the Governor-General, and at which he produced his Firman, the newly appointed Inspector of Gendarmerie announced to the Chief of the Militia Staff his intention of at once proceeding to reorganize the gendarmerie of the province, for which purpose he demanded the production of certain papers.

Colonel Borthwick is to have a conference to-morrow with the Council of Directors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 15 in No. 491.

Consul-General Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 170.)
Sir, *Philippopolis, June* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of the Instruction drawn up by the Governor-General in Council for the guidance of the Committee which has been appointed for the purpose of preparing and carrying out a scheme for the repatriation of Turkish refugees.

The 4th paragraph opens a wide door for the rejection of Turks implicated, or supposed to have been implicated, in deeds of bloodshed during the late troubles; while the next paragraph (5) is calculated to throw a considerable expense on the Turkish authorities at Adrianople and elsewhere.

Mr. Schmidt thinks, however, that the latter condition may be set aside, and a certain sum raised in this province for the purpose of reinstating Turkish refugees in their original homes, and providing Bulgarian occupants of Turkish houses with the means of constructing new dwellings. His rough scheme is to deposit in the local branch of the Ottoman Bank the floating funds of the Provincial Government, to the extent of about £T. 100,000, and obtaining advances to the same amount, which can be applied to loans to villages, on a mutual guarantee system, at a moderate rate of interest, the capital being repayable within a couple of years. The Bank would probably charge interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, while the interest accruing on the Government deposits would be at the rate of about 8 per cent., leaving a loss of about 2 per cent., in

addition to the loss of interest contingent on the withdrawal of floating funds, a loss which might be recovered from the peasantry.

But as the Government deposit would necessarily fluctuate greatly in amount, and as, moreover, the Bank cannot undertake the direct recovery of capital and interest due by villages, the arrangement conceived by Mr. Schmidt will no doubt be rejected by the Ottoman Bank, unless it obtains a provincial guarantee as security for its advances.

At the same time, I do not believe such a guarantee can be given without the assent of the Provincial Assembly.

The financial difficulties connected with the repatriation of Turkish refugees are, therefore, as great as the contingent political embarrassments to which I have referred in a report which I addressed yesterday, as Commissioner, to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and of which I have transmitted a copy to your Excellency.

It is to be hoped, however, that some means will be found for rendering practically possible the return of the Turkish refugees, either by arrangement with the Ottoman Bank, or with the aid of a public subscription in their behalf.

The Repatriation Committee will commence its labours in a day or two.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 16 in No. 491.

Programme for Repatriation of Turkish Refugees.

LES réfugiés Musulmans ont le droit de rentrer dans leurs foyers, en prenant possession de leurs biens, ainsi que des revenus de leurs biens existant dans les caisses de la province.

2. La police prêtera son concours pour assurer le retour paisible des réfugiés ainsi que leur sûreté personnelle.

3. Le Vali d'Andrinople, Réouf Pacha, dressera, par villages, la liste des réfugiés qui veulent rentrer.

4. Les deux Gouvernements s'entendront pour l'exclusion des hommes dangereux à la tranquillité publique.

5. La province ne disposant pas des moyens pour subvenir à l'entretien des réfugiés, l'autorité du lieu de leur provenance est obligée de leur fournir les moyens de subsistance pour un mois.

6. Les maisons des réfugiés Musulmans, occupées actuellement par des réfugiés Chrétiens, seront restituées aux propriétaires, et on prendra les mesures nécessaires pour leur évacuation.

Inclosure 17 in No. 491.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, June 16, 1879.

Sir,

WITH respect to my despatch of the 4th June, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the nomination of a Mussulman as Governor of Karnabad has been cancelled and a Bulgarian appointed in his place.

A Mussulman, Salim Aga, of Achialo, has been named as Kaïmakam of Aïdos, and I hear from the Bulgarians of that district that they intend to meet him outside the town, and insist on presenting him with a kalpak; if he refuses to adopt this head-dress they will refuse to receive him or to acknowledge his authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 18 in No. 491.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, June 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, on or about the 11th June, three Bulgarians belonging to the villages of Gradatch and Papasskeui were shot by

Turks near Cavak Mahallé, in the Caza of Aidos. About six weeks previously five Bulgarians were killed near the villages of Boghaz-déré and Ressova in the same caza.

About the 30th May the Moukhtar, Hassan Aga, and another Turk of Airanli-déré, in the Caza of Achialo, were literally beaten to death by order of the Captain of Police, of Achialo, a Bulgarian, whose name I do not know.

The pretext for these murders was the finding of some old firearms in the village and the presence there of a Turk from the abandoned Mussulman village of Daoudlu, whose stay in the village had not been reported to the authorities, but against whom no accusation was brought. Two men from the same village, Shaban Ibrahim and another, started for Achialo to lay a complaint as to the murders before the authorities; they never reached the town, and up to the 15th June had not been heard of, so that, although their bodies have not been found (perhaps, because the authorities do not, and the Turks dare not, search for them), there can be little doubt that they have been assassinated. In the Caza of Achialo murders and robberies of Turks by Bulgarians are of constant occurrence.

The Bulgarians shot in the Caza of Aidos were killed by a band of twenty-five brigands, headed by a Turk named Choban Hassan, of Arnaoutkeui, whose wife had been violated and property carried off by Bulgarians.

In the case of the murders near Ressova, Russian cavalry was sent into the district, but did not succeed in meeting with Hassan's band; about seventy Turks were imprisoned, and an unlimited number beaten with hedge-stakes; the prisoners were also flogged in prison every night "to make them confess."

In the case of the many murders committed by Bulgarians in the Achialo district, hardly a semblance of investigation was made; one Bulgarian who had been arrested by Russian troops, and identified by Turks as having fired a fatal shot, was imprisoned for a few days and then released.

I brought the Airanli-déré case to the notice of the newly appointed Governor of the Arrondissement of Bourgas, Ivanozo Petroff, and I believe he took some steps in the matter, as a telegram was to-day received from Phelèbe to the effect that General Vitalis had started "for the districts where troubles had broken out."

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 19 in No. 491.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, June 20, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Réouf Pasha has come to a complete understanding with the Turkish landowners here on the question of the restitution of Mussulman property carried off by Christians during the Russian occupation.

The leading member of the most irreconcilable section of those landowners, Rassim Bey, who was lately at the capital, and was there using every endeavour to prejudice the Porte against the Vali, has returned to Adrianople, bringing with him an explanation of the real views and intentions both of Réouf Pasha and of the Porte, which, although it has not yet been made public, is known to be quite satisfactory to the landowners

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 20 in No. 491.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Confidential.)

Rustchuk, June 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 16th instant I received official intimation that the Governor, "General Akimoff," was replaced by a new Governor named Ivanoff, a Bulgarian by birth, but educated in Russia, and who has been for some time Sub-Governor of Philibé.

The new Governor has the reputation amongst the Bulgarians of being severe. For myself it is, as yet, too soon to give an opinion as to his character; but, from what I hear, he will be, if not a better man, at least a harder worker, than the late Governor.

Governor Ivanoff has twice spoken to me on the subject of the Jews, Armenians, &c.,

at present enjoying Greek and Persian protection, whom he has orders to enrol as soldiers without respect to their certificates. I have strongly advised him to overlook their existence until after the arrival of Prince Alexander, when it would be possible to determine their true position by regular diplomatic means, instead of quarrelling with Greece on the subject of the Capitulations at this time; as, however good his position at bottom, he would be sure to place himself in the wrong if he refused to recognize the Consular certificate. He expressed his agreement in my views, but stated that he had reiterated orders from Prince Dondoukoff to continue their enrolment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 21 in No. 491.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, June 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose your Excellency a copy of my Report to W. G. Palgrave, Consul-General for Bulgaria, relative to the instalment of M. Tsankof as Governor of Varna, and the pretension put forward by him that Bulgarian was the language in which all communications from the foreign diplomatic Representatives to the local authority must be addressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 22 in No. 491.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Consul-General Palgrave.

Varna, June 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 17th instant the Consular Corps at Varna received a lithographed Circular, of which I inclose a copy and translation.

The first by seniority among the Vice-Consuls having been deputed, represented semi-officially the informality of such a document not in French and drawn up in a style incompatible with any usage or courtesy, whereupon M. Tsankof, the new Governor of Varna, said that he was willing to alter the form but not the language employed, as he had received instructions that Bulgarian was the only language to be recognized.

To avoid by all means any semblance of rupture or ill-feeling towards the newly-installed national authorities the point of the language was passed over and reserved for another time, and a fresh Circular of invitation was issued to the Consular Corps.

To-day the reception took place, and the question of the language being broached, M. Tsankof declared that having got orders he had not the authority to receive or send any correspondence save in the Bulgarian language, and, in the course of his arguments, insinuated that Consular officers were in the country to represent commercial interests only, and that, therefore, their despatches to the authorities of the places where they were accredited would be treated as though simply turning upon mercantile affairs, which being brought before the Tribunals would naturally be disposed of in Bulgarian.

This, his premise, being rebutted, the Governor fell back upon his alleged instructions to receive no documents in other than the Bulgarian language. Leaving aside the nullity of the objections to the use of French, I beg leave to remark that even if the Bulgarian language, which is not yet established in orthography or syntax, and still less in precision of terms, were to be adopted as the official language, it would be next to impossible to find any Bulgarians or others knowing that tongue as well as French, English, or German who are not already employed in the Principality, and if, perchance, such could be found, I am sure that I am under the mark when I state that they would not accept less than 80*l.* per annum, even when combining it with their ordinary avocations, a sum not to be disregarded if every Consulate and Vice-Consulate has to have its separate Secretary.

To the above I have to add that latterly the different departments of Justice, the Municipality, the Police, &c., have taken to correspond directly with the different

Consulates, a course which is entirely against previous usage, all such communications having been formerly forwarded through the Chief Civil Officer of the place.

Requesting that I may be favoured with instructions upon the points mentioned,

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 23 in No. 491.

Circular from Governor of Varna.

(Translation.)

HAVING entered upon the duties of Governor of Varna, in accordance with my order of the 4th June, 1879, No. 181, and wishing to make the acquaintance of all the persons who serve [? are officially employed] in the town of Varna, I appoint a reception in my Chancellerie at the following time:—

On Wednesday, the 6th June, at 9 A.M., the Administration of the Police Master and the Town Council.

At 9·30, the Administration of the District Governor and the Local Administrative Council.

At 10, the Judge of the Government [? Prefecture] and District Judge.

At 10·30, the Administration of the Varna Customs, the District Treasury, and of the Excise.

At 11, the Administration of the Captain of the Port of Varna.

MM. the Representatives of the foreign Powers can pay their visit on Thursday, the 7th June, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

The Honourable Representatives of the different religious communities can pay their visits on Friday, the 8th June, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

The Governor,
(Signed) TSANKOF.

The Chief of the Chancellerie,
DIMITRIEF.

Inclosure 24 in No. 491.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 21 Juin, 1879.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, le 18 de ce mois, un bateau du Lloyd Austro-Hongrois a embarqué d'ici pour Constantinople 170 soldats licenciés. Ces soldats seront embarqués de Constantinople pour Varna, attendu qu'ils appartiennent aux provinces Bulgares.

La défection des troupes devient alarmante, et j'ai pu la constater malgré les efforts que l'on fait pour la tenir secrète.

Des désertions ont lieu très-souvent, et plusieurs soldats depuis quelque temps se sont coupé ou écrasé les doigts pour être exemptés du service militaire. Il y en a aussi qui se blessent avec des fusils, et le 15 de ce mois on a dû amputer la jambe de l'un qui s'était blessé au-dessus du genou. Celui-ci est mort deux jours après l'amputation. Un autre qui s'était traversé le pied avec une balle Martini va mieux.

L'argent fait toujours défaut. Les fournisseurs ne sont pas payés et les troupes qui se trouvent en ville, environ 2,000 hommes, sont sans viande depuis plus de quinze jours.

Le Médecin-en-chef, Sokender Bey, mérite les plus grands éloges pour la manière qu'il dirige l'hôpital. Depuis son arrivée ici l'hôpital a complétement changé d'aspect et les malades y sont bien soignés.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 492.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Sliven, June 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my despatch No. 28, to inform you that the Commission decided, by a majority, that, with regard to the Travna Pass, the map afforded sufficient tactical evidence of its character, and that it was unnecessary to visit it. I voted myself for visiting it, and after the vote offered the services of my officers for verification of the map on the ground, which the Commission did not think it necessary to accept. The frontier here was extended from the line of the watershed to the military crest, as far as the first commanding heights on either side. The pass is very high and difficult, and of small importance.

The Hain-keui Pass was visited by the Commission on the 9th. It is by far the lowest and easiest of ascent that we have yet traversed, and, being practicable throughout for wheeled vehicles, may be considered as more important even than the Shipka. The line of watershed is elevated and well marked, but is commanded by a hill 2,000 yards in advance of it. This hill was brought by the Commission within the frontier line, which was extended here and elsewhere to the military crests. This gives a strong and commanding position for batteries. Nevertheless, as the proper position for the defender's infantry line is on lower slopes in advance, I desired to include a rayon beyond. The majority voted against this, on the ground that the line given was a strong one, a course which I believe to be in accordance with instructions given to some of the Commissioners not, in such cases, to trench further on Bulgarian territory.

On the 12th the Commission visited the Tverditza Pass. The Russians have, during their occupation, converted the old road into a very good one. It is easy throughout, lying mostly along a crest amidst extensive forests. There are lofty, thickly-wooded hills on each side of the summit, with very steep and difficult slopes below. The road winds round the bases of the hills on the right as it descends into Bulgaria. If the crest is used as a position, the ground ought to be at least partially cleared of wood; and in order to enable the defender to do this, I desired to include some of the descending slopes below the crest on the right within the frontier. Two of the Commissioners desired, for reasons not clearly apparent to me, to extend the frontier to the military crest on the left only, and, after crossing the road, to return, on the right, to the watershed. Three others desired to follow the watershed throughout. To prevent this restriction to the watershed, which would have been carried by a majority had the rest of the Commissioners, while desiring to advance the frontier, differed as to the extent to which it should be carried forward, I voted with the two first mentioned, and advised Tahir Pasha to do the same, and the line was fixed accordingly.

The Zupanci Mesari Pass, marked on the Austrian map as if important, is not known in the locality under that or any name. A path exists, but difficult and little used, and of small importance.

On the 14th the Commission visited the Demir Kapou Pass, but they have not yet discussed the fixing of the frontier line.

As seen thus far, the line of the Great Balkans does not confirm the notions which seem to prevail respecting its main characteristics. Except at the Shipka Pass, the southern slope does not descend rapidly and continuously from the summit. In some passes, as the Hain-keui and the Demir Kapou, there are long spaces of almost level road, and the northern slopes always descend immediately and rapidly from the summits of the passes, leaving the crest line strongly marked. As to the range being passable, as often asserted, almost everywhere, the passes are, of course, the easiest parts to traverse, and they often present great difficulties. Single adventurers on foot, or even on horseback, might make their way at a great many points, and small detachments might do the same; but considerable operations, such as are to be deliberately provided against, are only possible at a few of the passes in the part of the Balkan frontier as yet visited by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 493.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, June 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of a petition addressed by the Jews of Bucharest to the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies on the 13th instant.

This petition was signed by fourteen of the leading Jews of this place as representatives of the different classes of Jews, and shows their desire to have accorded to them the same rights of citizenship as are enjoyed by every Roumanian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure in No. 493.

Petition of Jews of Bucharest to the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies, June 13, 1879.

(Translation.)
M. le Président,
MM. les Députés,

FOR many years past has this country enjoyed a Constitutional form of Government, and the light of liberty has shone for all Roumanians.

An era of happiness has at last arrived for everyone but for us. A period of life and progress for all, but a period of moral pain and suffering for Roumanian Jews. With the proclamation of general independence a life of humiliation and grief commenced for us.

Regenerate Roumania has placed all her sons on an equal footing; we alone have our position rendered doubly sad by being maintained in the same exceptional state as in the past.

Representatives of the nation! we humbly entreat of you to listen to the cry emanating from the very bottom of our hearts.

Bring about the abrogation of those laws which retain us in this state of exclusion which is inconsistent with the lights of the century we live in.

We also are the sons of Roumania; we are devoted to her, and continually pray for her welfare just as much as the rest of her children.

We share the contributions to the State in the same manner as the rest. Roumania is our only native land; in her are placed all our interests, and all our hopes are in her and for her; it is in her soil that repose the remains of our ancestors.

Roumania, magnanimous for all and in all, will she not be so likewise towards us? She cannot prevent the distribution of liberty and equality to all.

Liberty implies equity and justice. Be then, you, the representatives of a noble and tolerant nation, fair and generous to us who love our country as the rest do.

Grant us a place in the hearth of the country, in order that we may be also able to contribute to her glory and prosperity.

Permit us also to call ourselves, with pride, citizens of Roumania.

The native Jews, industrious and peaceful, carry in their breasts a heart which leaps with joy during the hours of prosperity of the mother country, and which bleeds with pain during her moments of anxiety or adversity.

Do not tolerate that we should be considered as strangers in this country when we have history and facts to prove the contrary.

All prejudices which existed against us have been destroyed and condemned by the enlightened state of modern times.

It has been recognized everywhere that an Israelite is as good a citizen of the country in which he resides as the Christian inhabitants of such country themselves.

Civilization, the guide of all Powers, recognizes in us our capacity to share with our Christian fellow-citizens in complete equality of rights.

All countries which have granted to our co-religionists the rights of citizenship have never had occasion to repent of such a measure—far from it; they can only congratulate themselves for having done such an act of supreme justice.

Roumania, likewise, will only find occasion to felicitate herself for having received us into the bosom of the common family.

Roumania, civilized and civilizing, cannot refuse to elevate us to the same rank as herself, us, her own faithful children, up to the present moment disinherited.

In legislating this act of justice, you will only add to the glory of our beloved country.

We beg humbly and respectfully, in the name of the Israelites of Roumania, to submit our fair and legitimate petition to your justice and intellect. We pray God to defend our beloved and august Sovereign the Prince, and to keep you under his holy and powerful protection.

(Here follow 14 signatures.)

No 494.

Mr. Cumberbatch to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 153.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, June* 25, 1879.

I HAD the honour to announce to your Lordship on the 3rd instant the opening of the Roumanian Chambers, specially convoked in order to revise Article 7 of the Constitution which prevents the Jews from enjoying the rights of Roumanian citizenship.

Though nearly a month has now elapsed since the first meeting took place, the discussions on the amendment of that Article have not yet commenced. On the 23rd instant the Chamber of Deputies ended the discussion on the Address to the Prince.

Yesterday there was held a secret sitting in the Senate, at which the Deputies also assisted, and the Government communicated to the members of both bodies the official correspondence which has taken place on the Jewish question.

Two or three more such secret sittings are to be held, after which it is expected that the important debate will be commenced, which M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister, as your Lordship will see by the inclosed extract of his late speech in the Chamber during the discussion on the Address to Prince Charles, thinks will last for at least twenty days before this great national question is solved.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. A. CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure in No. 494.

Extract of Speech of M. Bratiano in Roumanian Chamber, June 23, 1879.

(Traduction.)

UNISSONS-NOUS, a dit M. I. Bratiano, mettons pendant vingt jours une sourdine à nos ressentiments, cessons les luttes de parti, signons une trêve pour nous donner le temps de résoudre la grande question nationale des Israélites. Le pays nous regarde, et il ne comprendrait pas que quand ses intérêts les plus vitaux sont en jeu, nous nous occupions de vétilles. Vous savez tous que les élections ont été libres. Tout mon passé est là pour protester contre la candidature officielle : je n'ai donc pas pu la pratiquer. Il s'agit d'un Député qui a été élu même sous le Gouvernement précédent : pourquoi ne l'aurait-il pas été aujourd'hui que le parti libéral, auquel il appartient, est au pouvoir? Tout cela n'est pas sérieux, et nous pouvons mieux utiliser notre temps qu'en l'employant à ses vaines disputes. Encore une fois, unissons-nous pour résoudre ensemble—comme de bons citoyens qui, au moment où la patrie court un péril, ne pensent plus qu'à elle, ne songent plus qu'à son salut et oublient leurs propres intérêts pour sauvegarder l'intérêt général—la grave question qui nous est soumise. Venez au Gouvernement par amour du pays : par amour du pays le Gouvernement s'engage à chercher avec vous, de bonne foi et sans vous faire la moindre opposition, le meilleur moyen d'assurer la grandeur matérielle et morale de la nation dans le réglement de la question Juive.

No. 495.

Mr. Plunkett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 287.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 23, 1879.

HAVING seen in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 20th instant the inclosed statement, taken from the "Cronstadt Gazette"—"that the Russian naval detachments employed in transporting troops from Rustchuk to Reni would only have completed this work by the $\frac{15}{27}$th August next, after which they would return to Russia"—I took an opportunity that afternoon of expressing to M. de Giers the hope that there was some mistake in this statement, and I added that I could not but regret that it should have been copied into a paper of so official a character as the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg."

M. de Giers said he had no knowledge of the statement to which I referred, but that it must be a mistake. He again assured me that it was the firm intention of the Imperial Government to have the evacuation completed entirely by the 3rd August.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT

Inclosure in No. 495.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of June $\frac{8}{20}$, 1879.

LE "Messager de Cronstadt" nous apprend que, d'après des nouvelles de Roustchouk, 27 Mai, nos marins sont actuellement occupés au transport des troupes de cette ville à Reni. Cette opération sera terminée pour le 15 Août, et les marins rentreront alors en Russie.

No. 496.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 371.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June* 23, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 362, Confidential, of the 18th instant, I commented upon the recommendation of the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner to Aleko Pasha to make himself as independent as possible, and I would beg, in confirmation of the view I had adopted, to refer your Lordship to Mr. Consul-General Michell's telegram of the 10th instant.

Mr. Michell reports the Pasha to have said that he had been advised by Count Andrassy to act independently of Russia, but repudiated the notion that the advice applied to his relations with the Sultan.

This entirely coincides with what I was aware to be Count Andrassy's views

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 497.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 372.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June* 23, 1879.

COUNT ANDRASSY has found some difficulty in making a selection for the post of Austrian-Hungarian Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria.

He was particularly desirous of nominating some one whose social position and habits would make it probable for Prince Alexander to assume easy confidential intercourse with him, and his choice has fallen upon Count Khévenhüller, who has hitherto formed a part of the Imperial Embassy at St. Petersburgh.

He is a brother of the Prince of the same name, and appears to be a gentlemanlike young man; but I am not informed as to his political qualifications.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 498.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 377.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 25, 1879.

UPON receiving yesterday from Mr. Gould a copy of his telegram to your Lordship I inquired into the truth of the information that had reached the Servian Government of Austrian troops being massed on the Novi-Bazar frontier with a view to their early advance, and that the populations were preparing to resist them.

I was assured by Baron Calice that the report was absolutely without foundation, and he denied at the same time all knowledge of the insecurity said to be prevailing in Bosnia by the appearance of bands of brigands or insurgents.

Count Andrassy, to whom I spoke on the subject to-day, likewise assured me that there was not a word of truth in regard to these preparations. He had asked the Porte to appoint persons to accompany the Imperial officers who were to make an investigation of the roads to the places fixed in the Convention for the Austrian garrisons, and to obtain other necessary preliminary information; but for the moment he was satisfied with being, under the Convention, in a position to act upon it whenever the moment seemed opportune.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 499.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 381. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 26, 1879.

I HAVE had some conversation with Count Andrassy on the Greek Frontier question.

He greatly regretted not being able yet to adopt your Lordship's view in favour of excluding Janina from the territory to be annexed to Greece; for, without being so Utopian as to share the opinion expressed by M. Waddington, that a permanent check might be placed upon the ambition or intrigues of that Kingdom by any practicable rectification of frontier, he believed that the surest method of keeping the Greeks quiet, at least for a time, lay in giving them the extension which they suppose to have been intended by the European Plenipotentiaries at Berlin.

He recognized the weight of the arguments used by your Lordship in your letter to Count Károlyi, and he appeared to admit that the terms of the Protocol did not necessarily imply that Janina was within the district which the Powers had indicated as to be ceded by Turkey; and being most anxious of acting with Her Majesty's Government upon this and all other questions connected with the East, he had abstained from pronouncing himself upon it.

He was, however, strengthened in the views he had expressed to your Lordship by learning from Count Szechényi that since Prince Gortchacow passed through Berlin the Russian Ambassador there had declared his Government to consider that Janina ought to be ceded; and he thought it very undesirable that the Greeks should acquire the belief that Russia was more favourable to their interests than the Western Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 500.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 383.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 26, 1879.

A TELEGRAM has been received from Count Zichy stating that the Sultan is now anxious that Prince Alexander should not go to Constantinople, as His Majesty is apprehensive of the resentment that might be produced among the Turks who have been expelled from Bulgaria if they saw the new Prince treated by their Sovereign with honour and distinction.

Count Andrassy looks upon this as merely another example of the deplorable weakness of the Sultan, all of whose actions seem to be guided by considerations for his personal safety, which he constantly believes to be in danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 501.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 390.)
My Lord, *Vienna, June* 27, 1879.

I AM informed that up to the date of the latest accounts received by the Austrian Government from Bourgas 28,000 of the Russian troops had been embarked at that port for Odessa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 502.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 675.)
My Lord, *Paris, June* 26, 1879.

IN my most confidential despatch No. 597 of the 3rd instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Waddington had begged me to communicate to your Lordship in the strictest confidence his desire to learn what additional territory might, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be assigned to Greece, if Janina were left to Turkey.

M. Waddington reverted to the matter this afternoon, and said that he continued to attach the greatest importance to coming to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government before the Greek question should be taken up by the Ambassador at Constantinople, and that he was, therefore, very anxious to learn your Lordship's views as to the future frontier line between Turkey and Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 503.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 317.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June* 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Herr von Thielau, of the German Diplomatic Service, has been accredited to Prince Alexander of Bulgaria with the rank of Consul-General, and has left for his post.

I had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with Herr von Thielau when he was Secretary of the German Legation at Madrid, and I feel sure, from my knowledge of his ability and personal qualities, that he is admirably suited for his present appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 504.

Sir J. Walsham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 322. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, June* 28, 1879.

WHEN I saw Herr von Radowitz yesterday, his Excellency alluded, amongst other matters, to the question of the recognition of Roumania, which is referred to in your Lordship's despatch No. 318 of the 18th instant.

The support which the German Government had received from that of Her Majesty with respect to this question had, he said, afforded them great satisfaction, and had materially contributed to the pleasure which they had felt in being able, on their side, to support the policy of Her Majesty's Government during the recent negotiations in Egypt.

His Excellency then went on to say that Italy was on the point of accrediting, if she had not already done so, a Diplomatic Agent to Prince Charles of Hohenzollern; but that Austria, and he hoped also France, would probably refuse to recognize the independence of Roumania, unless her Government were willing to accept, with regard to religious liberty, the conditions laid down in the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. Germany was greatly interested in the due fulfilment of these conditions, and she would certainly not hesitate to withhold her recognition so long as Roumania declined to carry out loyally the provisions of the Treaty.

This appeared to me to be about the minimum with which the German Government would be content, as Herr von Radowitz laid great stress on the necessity of insisting upon the execution of the XLIVth Article, seeing that it referred to a question in which Germany had at the Conference expressed herself to be specially interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN WALSHAM.

No. 505.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, June* 30, 1879, 11 A.M.

FRENCH Ambassador at Constantinople telegraphs to French Minister for Foreign Affairs as follows:—

"Sir H. Layard earnestly desires that, in concert with Lord Salisbury, you will give me orders to make observations to Sultan in case of his proposing to replace Haireddin by Mahmoud Nedim."

French Minister for Foreign Affairs is quite ready to remonstrate in favour of Haireddin if you will do the same. He is anxious for an early answer from you.

No. 506.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 30, 2·10 P.M.)

(No. 515.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 30, 1879, 12·30 P.M.

HIS Highness Mahmoud Nedim Pasha arrived this morning by Austrian steamer.

I shall make strongest representations to the Sultan should His Majesty propose to name him Grand Vizier.

No. 507.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879.

YOURS No. 60. I am very glad to hear that Prince Alexander will receive investiture from Sultan personally.

No. 508.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879, 4·30 P.M.

YOURS Nos. 112 and 113.

I have instructed Sir H. Layard to concert with French Ambassador in support of Haireddin.

Telegram repeated to you shows Layard is acting as French Minister desires as to Firman.

What are the points about which M. Waddington is anxious?

No. 509.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879, 8·15 P.M.

PRAY inform Minister for Foreign Affairs that we think of urging on Roumania to insert in her Constitution the language as to religious liberty of Article XLIV of Treaty, and to recognize her independence when that has been done.

I have ascertained that Prince Bismarck would be satisfied with this solution, and I believe M. Waddington. I trust M. Depretis will be able to act with us.

In order to prevent any external appearance of coercion which might offend the Roumanian Assembly, we think of asking the Austrian Government, which has already established diplomatic relations with Roumania, to convey to the Roumanian Government a message from the Powers which agree that they will be satisfied with this minimum.

If Italian Government approve, ask them to instruct their Ambassador at Vienna.

No. 510.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 428.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government and the German Government have agreed that they will intimate to the Roumanian Government that if the language of the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin is inserted in the Roumanian Constitution, they will consider that step as sufficient to justify their recognition of the independence of Roumania. I believe that the French Government will be prepared to make a similar intimation.

It is thought, however, to be unadvisable to do anything which might wound the susceptibility of the Roumanians, and it is feared that a collective note recommending the proposed change in the Constitution might have that effect, as being taken to imply a menace in case of the advice being rejected. It is therefore proposed, as the Austro-Hungarian Government have already given their recognition, to ask them to convey to the Roumanian Government the message stating the terms on which the recognition of the Western Powers would be accorded.

I shall request your Excellency to arrange with the Representatives of the other Powers joining in the intimation the details of the step to be taken, but I do not wish you to move in the matter definitively at present, as it is necessary first to ascertain whether the Italian Government is likely to co-operate with the three Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 511.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 358.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 60 of the 28th instant, I have to express to you my satisfaction at hearing that Prince Alexander will receive his investiture from the Sultan personally.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 512.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 360.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879.

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will inform the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government contemplate urging on the Government of Roumania to insert in her Constitution the language referring to religious liberty which is contained in Article XLIV of the Berlin Treaty, and to recognize her independence only when that has been done.

Her Majesty's Government have ascertained that Prince Bismarck would be satisfied with this solution of the question, and, as they believe, M. Waddington also. This being the case, Her Majesty's Government trust that M. Depretis will be able to act in concert with them also.

In order to prevent any appearance of a coercive demonstration which might be distateful to the Roumanian Assembly, Her Majesty's Government contemplate asking the Austrian Government, which has already established diplomatic relations with Roumania, to convey to that Government a message from the Powers who may agree that they will be satisfied with this arrangement as the least that can be required of Roumania by way of guarantee on the question of religious liberty.

If the Italian Government concur in the views I have thus expressed, your Excellency will request them to instruct their Ambassador at Vienna accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 513.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.**

(No. 361.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, expressing his sense of the great personal kindness shown to himself and Lord Donoughmore and to the members of his Staff by the Commissioners of the other Powers and the gentlemen attached to them.

I should be glad if you would take an opportunity of mentioning the contents of this despatch to M. de Giers, and of expressing the recognition by Her Majesty's Government of the personal friendliness shown by the Russian members of the Commission to their British colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. H. Layard, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Sir J. Walsham, and Sir H. Elliot.

No. 514.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 363 B.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879.

WITH reference to Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 143 of the 27th April last, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Clarke, containing observations made by that officer on the representations addressed to his Excellency by Baron Jomini with regard to his proceedings as British member of the Commission for the Delimitation of the Turkish Frontier in Asia.

In this despatch Colonel Clarke explains with great clearness the points for which he has contended with his Russian colleagues, and as his arguments are in entire harmony with the views of Her Majesty's Government, I have to instruct you to draw up a Memorandum embodying the substance of those arguments, which you will place in Baron Jomini's hands for the information of the Imperial Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 515.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

(No. 45. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 50, marked Secret, of the 15th ultimo, reporting the discussions which took place at a meeting held on the previous day by the Turkish and Russian members of the Asiatic Frontier Commission to reconsider the line of frontier between the Black Sea and Karaourgan.

Your proceedings in regard to this question have my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 516.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 30, 1879, 11 P.M.

ENGLAND and Germany, and I believe France, have agreed to intimate to the Roumanian Government that they will be satisfied with the insertion in the Constitution of the language of Article XLIV of the Treaty as to religious liberty; and in order to avoid a collective note, which would have a threatening air, we propose to ask Austria, which has already recognized, to convey the message. Your Excellency will be requested to arrange details with other Representatives, but do not take any definitive steps at once, as we are waiting to know whether Italy will join us.